August 1997

# Alaskan Caver, Volume 17, No. 4, August 1997

Dalene T. Perrigo

# The Alaskan Caver

Volume 17 Number 4 August 1997

# The Alaskan Caver

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Dalene T. Perrigo - Editor



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Cover: Flicker Ridge Photo Steve Lewis

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- Anchorage Meetings: Call Bob Hicks for details. (907)248-2830.
- Ketchikan Meetings: 7 p.m. the first Monday of the month at the Alaska Public Health Service Building, 3054 Fifth Ave., Ketchikan.
- Fairbanks Meetings:

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The ALASKAN CAVER
August 1997

*Kevin Allred (right), Bicking Award recipient, displays the certificate which was presented by Donald Davis at the Annual Awards Banquet at the NSS Convention, June 27, 1997. Photo: David Klinger*

## CALENDAR

**February 9-13, 1998.....**Western Bat Working Group Workshop, Reno, NV. Charlene Vullo 208/736-2369 or FAX 208/736-2375.

**Aug. 3-7, 1998.....**NSS Convention, Sewanee, TN. Wm. Shrewsbury, PO Box 4444, Chattanooga, TN 37405-0444. 423/886-3296; nss98@caves.org.

**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

**Southcentral Area** meetings: Call Bob Hicks at 248-2830 hm or 272-8401 wk.

## ALLRED WINS LEW BICKING AWARD

Kevin Allred received the prestigious National Speleological Society (NSS) Lew Bicking Award as his wife, Carlene, their four children and over a thousand NSS cavers looked on and gave Kevin a standing ovation. The award was presented at the NSS Convention's Award Banquet Friday June 27, 1997, in Sullivan, Missouri.

The Lew Bicking Award recognizes an individual NSS member who, through specific actions, has demonstrated a dedication to the thorough exploration and mapping of a cave or group of caves. The recipient must have been a member in good standing of the Society for at least two years immediately prior to being submitted as a candidate. A cash award accompanist this recognition.

Kevin, along with his wife Carlene, began exploring caves on Prince of Wales Island in Southeast Alaska in the summer of 1987. They began mapping El Capitan Cave which is presently the longest cave in Alaska. The following year he and Carlene were joined by other cavers and the Prince of Wales Island Expeditions (POWIE) were born. This organization evolved into the Tongass Cave Project which in on-going to this day.

Kevin is co-discover of El Capitan Pit and was the first to descend this pit in 1989. He is an outstanding caver and climber and he is responsible for the discovery and mapping of a large number of caves through out Southeast Alaska. It was his initial recognition of bear bones in a remote cave passage and the recruiting of cavers who were also paleontologists, that spurred on the current study of a number of paleo sites in Southeast Alaska.

In addition, Kevin and Carlene have spent a considerable amount of time exploring and mapping lava tubes in the Hawaiian Islands. Kevin is the Chairperson of the Kazumura Cave Project. Kazumura Cave has over 40 miles of surveyed passage. Kevin and Carlene were the primary developers of an atlas of Kazamura Cave system for which they won a medal at the NSS Cartography Salon at the 1997 NSS Convention.

Kevin and Carlene and their family continue to make their home in Haines, Alaska.

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

December 15, 1997

So much has been happening since this past July that every time I try to write this column, it becomes outdated before I can finish. In summary, this is what has occurred since the expedition arrived on Heceta Island this summer.

When the cavers saw what was being done on the karst the reaction was one of anger and

Continued from page 1

the feeling of being lied to and being used by the Forest Service.

Nearly every member of the Grotto is aware of the barrage of letters that were fired-off to the Forest Service. Many of these letters were very intense, with hard questions and demands directed at both agencies and individuals.

Unfortunately, many of our most experienced and dedicated cavers vowed never to volunteer to work with the Forest Service again. This tremendous uproar resulted in the Forest Service bringing Tom Aley back to do a review and make recommendations for a revised Standards of Guidelines for cave and karst management. (Tom's report is due to arrive in the mail as I write this.)

Tom stopped in Ketchikan on his way back to Missouri and met with me for several hours. It was an extremely informative meeting as we went over his field notes together. There were some areas where we were not in complete agreement.

Jim Baichtal then invited Marcel LaPerriere and me to fly over to Heceta Island with him on November 19th and 20th to have a look at the areas causing all the concern and to hear what he and Tom were proposing to do now and for the future. Since I have had neither training nor a formal education in geology or karst hydrology, it was an intense learning experience for me. In fact, most of the logging practices and terminology were unfamiliar to me.

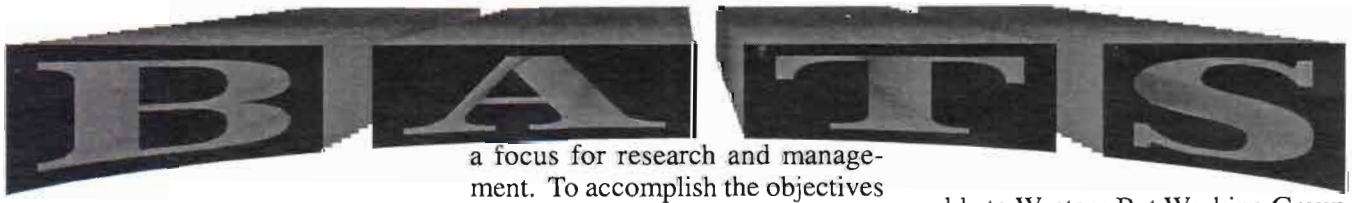
For several months I have been getting information and viewpoints from cavers and Forest Service personnel, environmentalists and forest industry people, recognized experts and students, good friends and people I can't stand. Whether we agreed or not, most were honest and sincere in what they said, but others told me only what they thought I wanted to hear. As a result, it is taking a long time to sift through and digest the overload of information. The education continues, but it is only the beginning.

As things stand now, everyone who wrote a letter to the Forest Service, as well as a number of other people, will be receiving a copy of Tom Aley's recommendations. We should also have a copy published in The Alaskan Caver for all to examine. Remember, these are recommendations only. The Forest Service will be examining them and so must we. Look at each and every point, and the overall plan, and decide if you agree or disagree. Then let the Forest Service hear from you. This may be the best chance we will have to get it right without having everybody going for everyone's throat.

Never waste an opportunity. If it doesn't work, then we can go to the next level. The talking is about to end and it is time for the Forest Service to prove they are sincere about protecting the karst. If we cannot find any level ground for us to agree upon, or if it is once again "all talk and no action" (and believe me, we can't have long to wait), THEN it will be time for us to act. We have to at least give it a chance.

To those who said "never again", please reconsider. It is because of you and those who are not quite completely disgusted that all these proposed changes are on the table. Without you being there, none of this would have been brought out into the open. If you don't continue, if all of us don't continue, who is going to make sure this beautiful and valuable resource isn't completely destroyed?

Those of you who have not made your thoughts known to Alan or who need additional information on this subject may contact Alan Murray at FAX 225-5283.




The Western Bat Working Group meets Feb. 9-13, 1998, at the Peppermill Hotel in Reno, Nev. Workshop leaders and facilitators will lead this meeting which is open to anyone who has an interest in bats.

The purpose of the meeting is to 1) review current information on population status of bat species in the West, 2) discuss and review issues and threats to bat species in the West, and 3) prioritize species both regionally and west-wide to provide a focus for research and management. To accomplish the objectives the species experts will start with discussion of population status, threats, and management issues of cave and mine roosting bats, cliff-dependent bats, tree obligate bats, and generalist bats. In the small group sessions, that follow, the species will be ranked in terms of conservation priorities, and identification of management issues and research needs.

The workshop registration fee is $40 (early registration) and $60 after Jan. 16. Send checks made payable to Western Bat Working Group to the Registration Chair Charlene Vullo, Bureau of Land Management, 2620 Kimberly Road, Twin Falls, ID 83301. For more information Vullo can be reached at phone 208/736-2369; FAX 208/736-2375; e-mail cvullo@id.blm.gov.

For hotel reservations call the toll-free reservation line 1-800-282-2444. Jan. 8, 1998, is the cutoff date for reservations at $39 per single or double occupancy.

# Western Cavers Go East

by Carlene Allred

The Allred family had never been to an NSS convention.

I always thought of that sort of thing as something that mainly eastern cavers did. If we went to a convention we would miss the "real" caving closer to home. The 1997 NSS Convention was to be held in Sullivan, Missouri, hundreds of miles from Hains, Alaska.

What did I know about caving in the East? I had heard that there the caves are very long and horizontal, and that only some cavers engage in vertical caving. These are known as the "vertical elite". While in college I had a roommate from Tennessee who claimed to have done lots of caving, but had never been on a rope. This seemed incomprehensible to me, a western caver. In the West everyone uses ropes because the caves go up and down, like the mighty mountain ranges that contain them. However, western caves tend to be shorter, and sparser (except in Southeast Alaska).

We westerners normally engage in great adventures getting to and from our caves. For example, caving in the Grand Canyon involves glorious trekking through unspeakably awesome terrain that far surpasses the caves within. I had heard that in the East you simply drive up to an entrance - no skiing, backpacking, climbing, etc. Such a cave had better be good to make the trip worthwhile!

Our drive south and east from Haines in June was long but enjoyable, in spite of our family of six being crammed into our mini-van for days on end. We toured, visited with family, and toured some more until we reached Missouri.

While driving eastward along the freeway through Wyoming we noticed a vehicle sporting a license plate with a cave word stamped into it. I don't remember now what it said, but we signaled them and communicated through the windows with signs. They were on their way to the NSS Convention too.

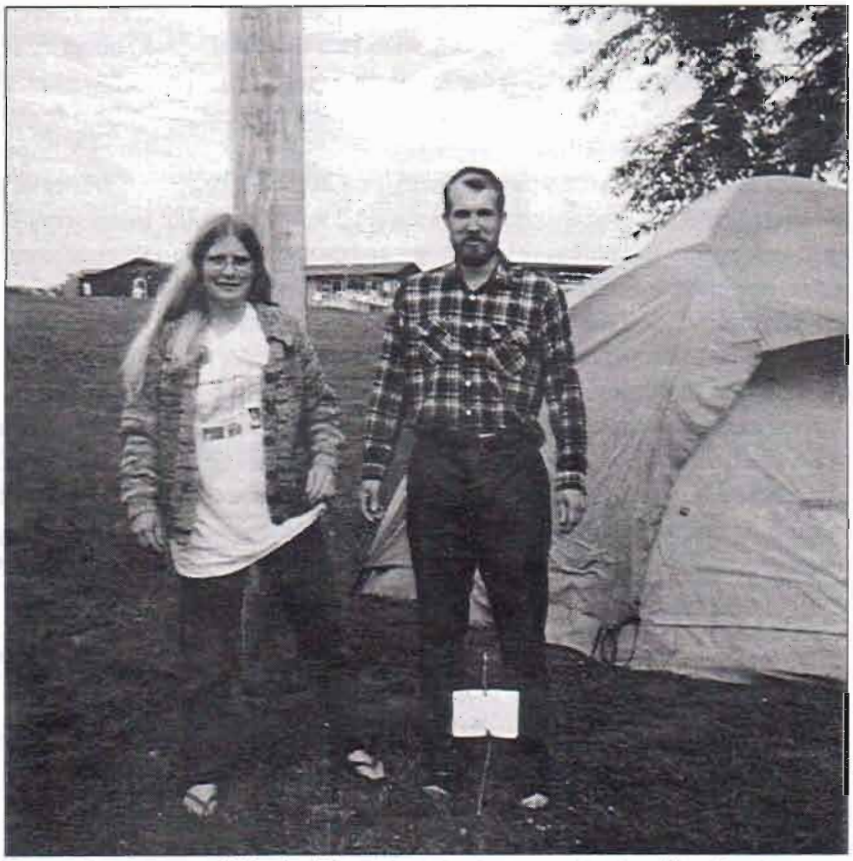
After separating we never saw them again.

For me this trip was my first crossing of the Great Plains. A few generations ago our ancestors crossed these plains going the other way. We followed their wagon trail (the Mormon Trail) on our return as closely as the present highways would let us.

It was also the first time I had ever seen fireflies. They were visible on the other side of the Plains.

Our first night in Missouri was an eye opener. It rained like I never imagined it could. For the entire night torrents descended, and lightening was ever present. We spent the entire night huddled in our van, parked in someone's private driveway, unable to even get out to relieve ourselves.

In the morning we drove to Sullivan and found the convention headquarters. We soon learned that the rain which confined us to the van, drove many of the cavers from the campground. We also discovered over the next few nights, that the campground was noisy at night,



*Carlene and Kevin Allred beside their tent in the Blue Springs Campground at the 1997 NSS Convention June 1997 in Sullivan, Missouri. Photo: David Klinger*

Continued from page 3

making sleep difficult. If ever we go to another NSS Convention, I will try to find a very isolated spot for our campsite.

All the Allred's wanted to see a typical eastern cave. According to other people at the convention we were not in the East at all, but in what they call the "Midwest" (even though we were geographically well into the eastern half of the U.S.).

We also registered for different cave trips. I went to a cave in the Ozarks called Barome Moore, which is presently the second longest in the state. It was a three-hour drive to the karst area, which consists of a flattish agricultural expanse containing very wide, shallow sinks, some with pits within. (It is interesting to note that in the Tongass this would have been rated as "low vulnerability", yet, there was a 20-plus mile long cave beneath us. I wonder how many years or generations it took to get 20 miles surveyed down there.)

We parked and walked a short distance through a cornfield, and descended into a very ordinary looking entrance. Our group was large so that we split up into three parties: hard-core, medium-core and soft-core. I joined the medium-core group which contained about 15 cavers. It was enjoyable to meet and cave with other people from around the country in a low pressure, casual no-work setting. One tall easygoing man had a helmet with five or six lights sticking out in all directions. I figured that back home he must be some super hard-core caver to need all that stuff.

Our first stop was an underground campsite that contained benches, shelves, tables, supplies, a laboratory, and even a kitchen sink! Here we regrouped and began our underground adventure. My group, led by Bill Randolph, took the four-mile long "(Boy) Scout Loop" route. We viewed some large Pleistocene cat tracks along the way.

The branching cave was very horizontal and seemed to be sandwiched between layers of horizontal bedding. The ceiling was absolutely flat and the streamways were incised, forming long, five to 15-foot wide sinuous passageways. If the floor was not covered with deep sticky mud it was under muddy water. The only vertical part was a short fixed handline in one spot.

We waded for what must have been miles in the 14-inch deep streams. The bedrock floor was invisible beneath the brown-colored water, and was riddled with numerous potholes and ridges, requiring very tricky footwork. It was very tiring work walking through this cave! I was glad that I wasn't in the hard-core group.

When the passageways became stoopways or crawlways they stayed that way for long distances because of the cave's very horizontal nature, with such incredibly flat ceiling and floors.

Another thing that struck me was the even color. Everything was the same brownish hue including what few formations we saw. The other caves our family members toured were also this same brown color, and they all, like Barome Moore, also consisted of the same horizontal winding stream passages with flat roofs. The exception was beautiful Onandoga Cave, a commercial show cave. These passages were wider and much deeper cut, allowing for development of huge and colorful formations above the muddy stream level. We had never seen caves anything like these Missouri caves.

Overall the convention and the caving was an adventure. There were about 1,200 in attendance. It was fun to actually meet some people that we had heard about or had written to in the past. And surprisingly, there were quite a few people we knew, including Tongass cavers Dave Klinger and Fred Grady.

Many of the talks and presentations were quite interesting and the kids enjoyed competing in the vertical contest. We got to see what a genuine NSS cartographic salon was like. I now know why it is so hard to win a blue ribbon, the other maps are so good! There was a big slide show (the photo salon display) near the end of the convention, shown twice, that many people seemed to think was the most exciting thing at the convention.

I would like to attend another convention sometime in the future. The money spent on this one did cause me to miss POWIE 97, though, but every once in a while it might be worth the sacrifice.

## CAVER TIP.....

**DC SPELEOGRAPH** Volume 53 - Number 06, June 1997 Some tips for handling your caving rope Recently some Mother Lode Grotto members made a visit to the factory of Smith Safety Products to test some of their grotto equipment. During the visit Dan Smith of SSP shared some new information about rope handling (source: Valley Caver, Spring 1997)

1. Gasoline represents little risk of deteriorating a rope.
2. Ropes should be washed ONLY by soaking them in a tub, or in a washing machine with mild agitation, and in detergent. It is OK to soak the rope for hours, then allow it to dry slowly.
3. Don't use a rope washer. They push dirt into the core of the rope.
4. Rope needs to breathe. Don't store it bagged tightly.

# LETTERS

Editor,

I enjoyed very much being a part of the Tongass Cave Project this summer, and see the TCP as a valuable tool for the protection of caves and karst. The Alaskan Forest Service seems to have many standards and guidelines to help facilitate this protection - something that is, for the moment, just a goal for areas such as British Columbia. It seems that even with these standards and guidelines, however, caves and karst come second place to facilitated logging practices. It comes as no surprise that without monitoring, things get logged over. I see part of the solution to be an increased awareness and education about caves and with an increased respect and better management of forests as whole entities. Sounds like a pipe dream to me, but if guidelines were at least more comprehensive and actually adhered to, it would be a step in the right direction. Steve Lewis asked that I enclose a copy of the letter I wrote to many Forest Service representatives following the Tongass Cave project.

Dear Sir,

I am a caver from Victoria, British Columbia, and a member of the Vancouver Island Cave Exploration Group (VICEG). I participated in the Tongass Cave Project this year on Heceta Island, Alaska. It was very rewarding to meet other cavers and to go caving in such a beautiful and heavily karstified area. Through the TCP, I was looking forward to working with the Forest Service to help expand the knowledge base concerning the caves and karst of Heceta Island.

Sadly, the ever present problem of cave and karst management relating to forest practices is still in the evolutionary phase in the Tongass. The Tongass Cave Project has been operating for many years to provide the valuable geological and biological information necessary for forest practices to be less destructive to the karst ecosystems and cave environments. It was my experience with the TCP this year that has led me to conclude that this information is not deemed valuable by the Forest Service. Many areas on Heceta have been slated to be logged that have not been properly inventoried and do indeed contain many prominent karst features. Guidelines already in place for the management of karst (i.e. designation of vulnerability category and logging accommodations for this) seem to have been ignored. "Salvage" logging occurred on Heceta mid-July, during the start-up of TCP, that defaced several prominent sinkholes with roads built literally over top of the drainage. Other aspects of logging on Karst, such as soil erosion and road stability, surely have not been adequately addressed given the proposed volume to be logged, the steep slopes in proposed units and insufficient inventory work to date. Proper inventories need to be performed before timber harvesting plans are laid out.

Seventeen people from four different countries donated their time this year, and the role of the TCP is ill defined. Cavers could be a valuable asset to the Forest Service, not just as inventory workers, but as knowledgeable and informed individuals who have much experience dealing with karst hydrology and the impacts of logging on karst. For the future, I hope the trend will show an active interest in working towards a more thorough comprehension of caves and karst, with emphasis on systems rather than unrelated features.

Approximately 70 percent of Heceta Island is comprised of carbonate rock, and the density of karst features is comparable on a world wide scale. As you probably know, unlogged karst ecosystems in Coastal Temperate Rainforest are a threatened entity. Given this, the proposed scale of timber harvest on Heceta Island is ludicrously high.

The framework seems to be getting built for better management of the caves and karst in the Tongass Forest. However, lip-service will not save the valuable karst ecosystems from destruction.

Sincerely,

Margaret Drummond

# ON YOUR KNEES

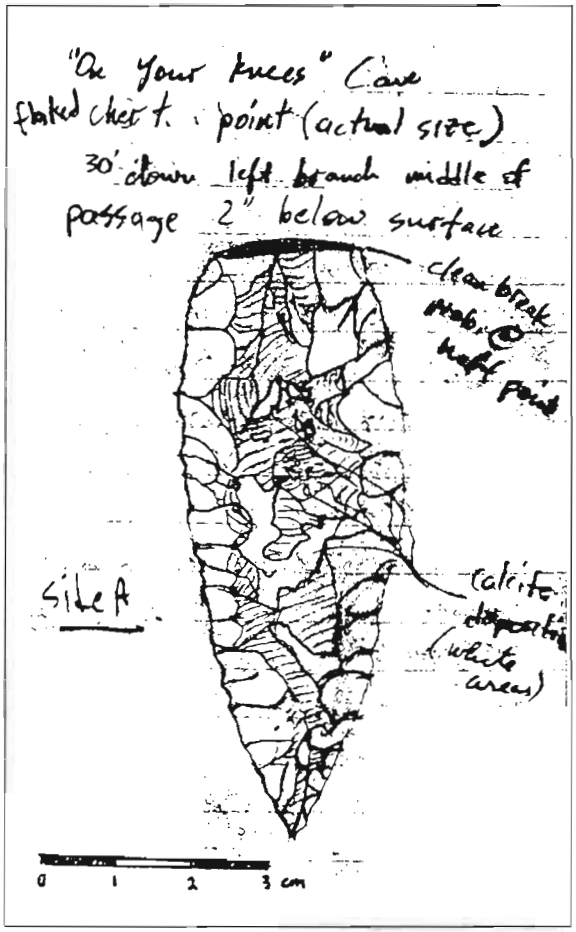
by David Love

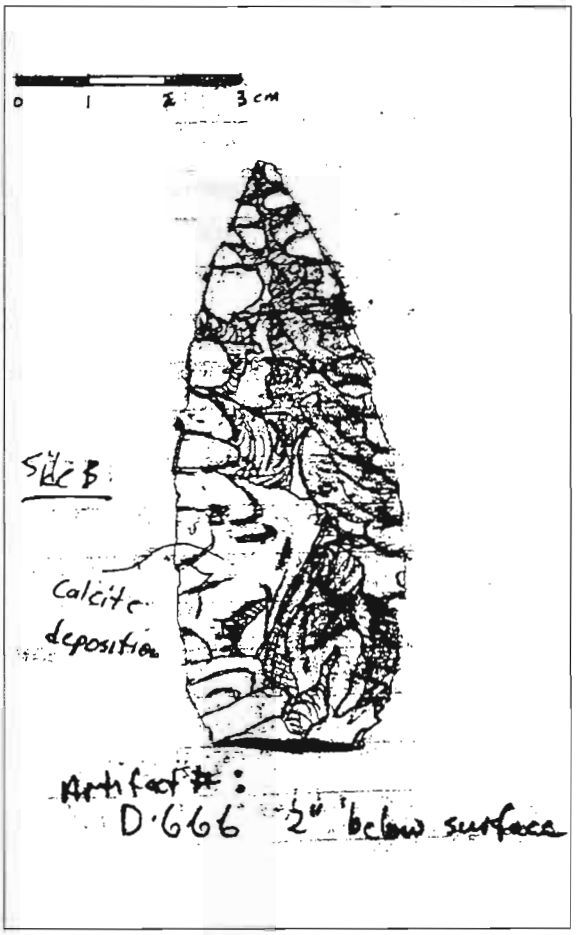
Raven-speak from the old-growth canopy outside my no-see-um mesh window; squeaks, gurgles, gongs, caws, a soothing mix of vocalizations. Melodious yet foreign to our ears, the sounds are incomprehensible, speaking more to one's psyche than to the intellect. A greeting, as I emerge from the mental and physical cocoon of shut-eye and sleeping bag.

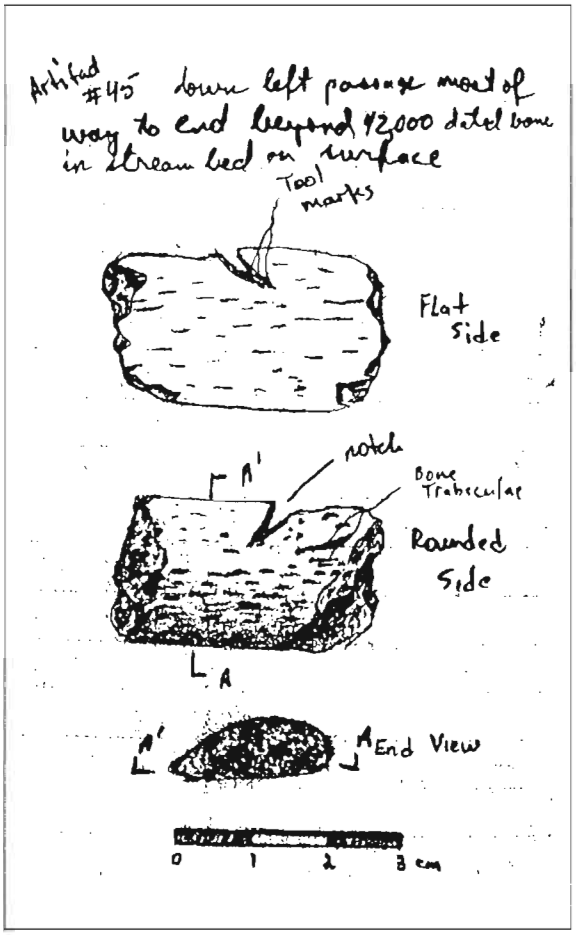
Sleep has been blessed lately, possibly from physiological necessity. Strenuous days filled with sediment excavation, screen washing and hauling via backpack to the camp a mile away on the beach overlooking Summer Strait. I've spent the past month helping to carve a paleontological and archeological base camp out of the wilderness near Protection Head, an area of northern Prince of Wales (POW) Island, Alaska. We are excavating "On Your Knees" Cave named, appropriately for it's demanding mode of entry. Cold, wet, tight passages squeeze and scrape their way below to the initial excavation sites and bone deposits within. Uncovered brown and black bear bones: humerus and lumbar vertebrae C14 dated to 41,000 and 35,000 Before Present (BP) respectively. These are the oldest remains of bear as yet to be found in the POW area. Where had they come from? What was the climate like in this area during their lifetimes? Was this cave, now 500 feet in elevation located closer to sea level? Was it covered by miles of glacial ice? Questions the scientists studying southeast Alaska have no absolute answers for, but hope soon to offer at least some educated guesses about.

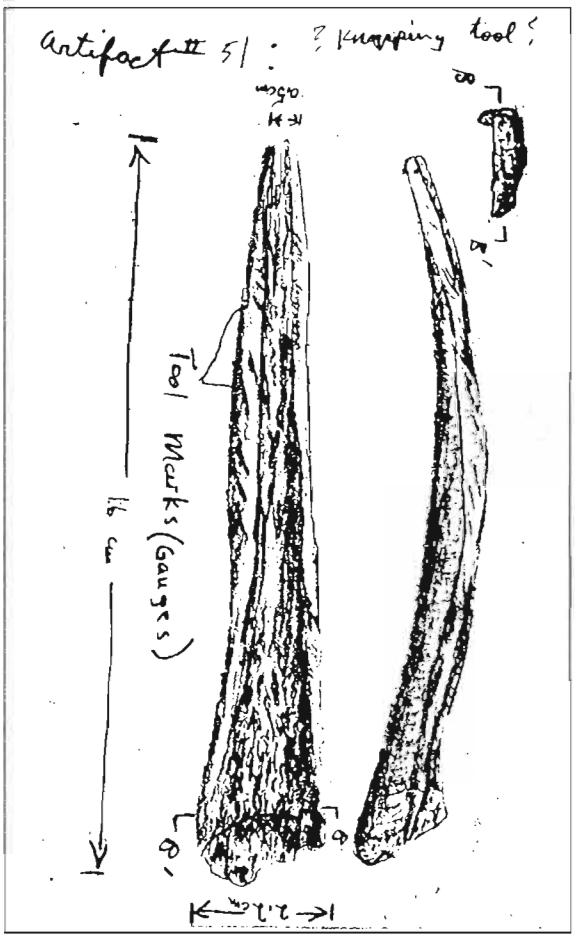
While charismatic, bear bones from On Your Knees Cave are just the beginning, Pleistocene bone remains from additional species abound: fox, otter, deer, marmot, possible mountain goat, wolverine(?), numerous unidentified bird bones, piles of fish bone deposited as otter scat and a two ringed seal humeri dated at 13,000 to 20,000 years BP. Ringed seals are currently as Arctic species living only in or near the polar seas. The C14 dates for these pinniped bones are currently being reevaluated from the same one. Greater precision could help in refining our understanding of the extent and duration of the most recent local glaciation.

Then there are the human remains; pelvis, vertebrae and lower jaw dated to 9800 years BP. Most of the teeth in the latter were present and were evenly worn, possible from eating clams and associated clam grit. This wear pattern and C13/C14 stable isotope ratios indicate that Prince of Wales Man as he has begun to be called may have preyed on Pleistocene fish, shellfish and marine mammals. The more recently erupted wisdom teeth were less heavily worn, no cavities were present and the incisor closest to the left canine had a groove in it possibly used in life for stripping sinew or bark. Excellent dentition, a dentist's nightmare. This square-jawed male, aged 25-30 years old apparently knapped chert and crafted bone into tools; a chert projectile point, a unidentified piece of bone, notched in one spot and a bone knapping tool found nearby stand as evidence. At the cave






entrance, excavations conducted this year unearthed additional chert, obsidian, and quartz tools just as above a layer of wood ash, charcoal, charred bones and scattered fire-cracked rocks. At least a dozen microblades, numerous discarded stone flakes, a burin, a projectile point (which may have been a halted knife) and at least one stone scraper or adze-blade were discovered in this layer. Below these scattered remains of what may have been an ancient fire-pit was a thick layer of glacially deposited silts, sands and clays; the outwash spoils of the last great postglacial flood.

Will pollen grain analysis of sediment samples taken this summer tell us more about paleobotany and ancient plant communities?

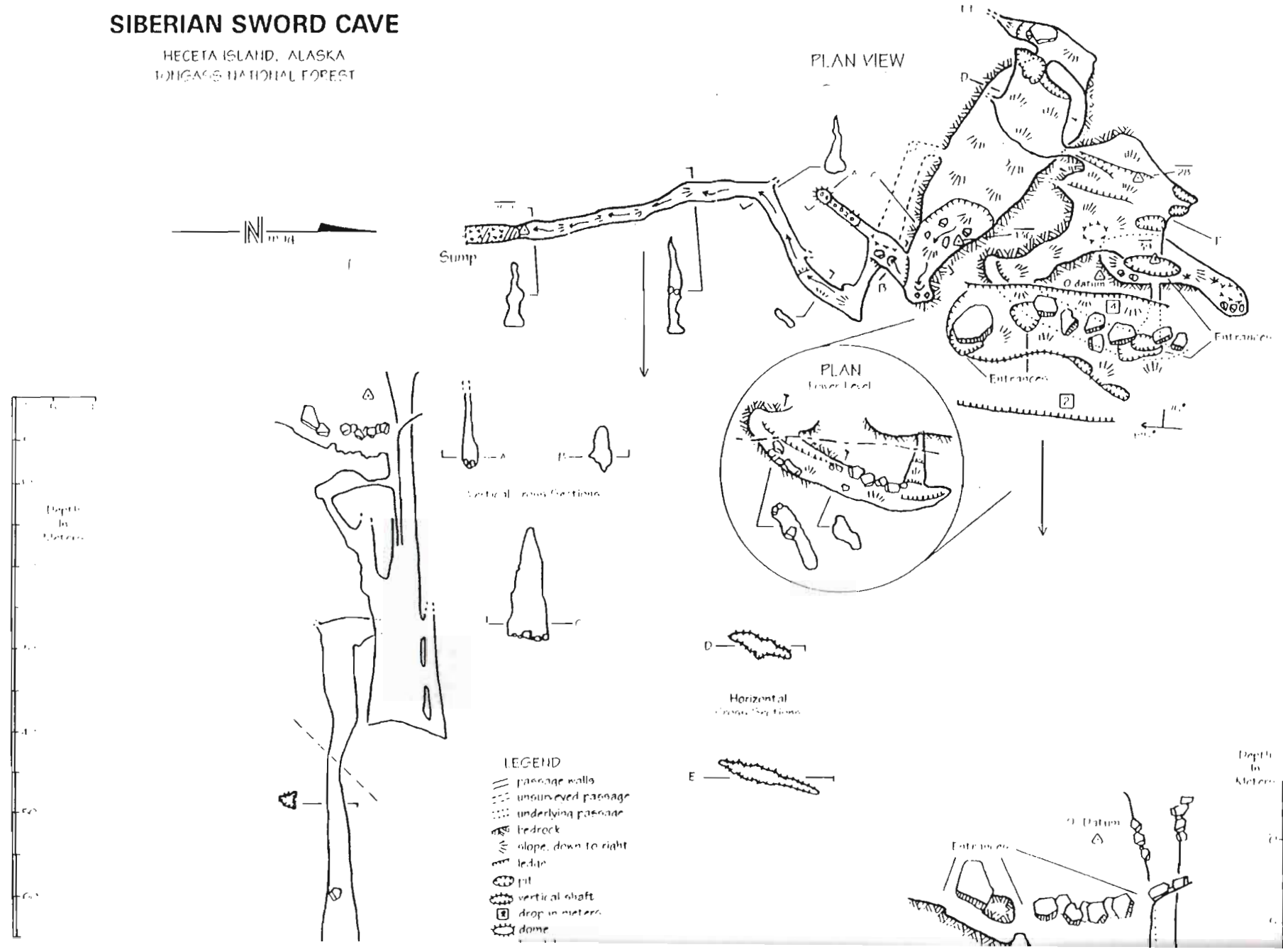
Will analysis of fish bones and otoliths shed light on paleo-fish communities or oceanographic conditions? What had attracted this man to this spot? A cave entrance with the raw materials for creating tools? A bear hunt? A portal to the underworld in which to bury a good friend or family member? Or simply a comfortable stopover spot to escape the incessant rains? Sometimes I cannot help but wonder of life in those times, wishing for some Wellsonian reality and the opportunity to time travel.

What if this man looked more Caucasian than Native American? If found to have the bulging forehead and strong facial features of a few specimens found so far in the Lower 48 of similar dates this find could indicate a migration of peoples with similar toolmaking traditions from Europe or Siberia, rather than Asia. Regardless of origin, could these ancient peoples have arrived by boat? Or have the sites of appropriate age simply not been found in N. Alaska associated with the land bridge crossing? (Most N. Alaska sites are dated about the same time as these inland sites). Was this man related to some ancestor of the native Ainu people of Japan? Could these people have been related to the older Clovis or Folsom man? Were they wiped out by warfare and new diseases introduced when Asiatic peoples, who followed in later decades these pioneers of the Northwestern shore of this continent? If so, what does this mean for NAGPRA (the Native Graves Repatriation Act) wherein the native American tribes can rebury their ancestors' bones and reclaim artifacts currently interned in the nation's museum. Nonetheless, at what age in time do we simply consider archeological remains to be of "common ancestry and leave the issue of race behind us? Thus, finds such as Prince of Wales man are rekindling a certain amount of discussion about our ancestors' origins and routes of migration. Fascinating! For a couple of good articles on the subject try American Archeology, summer 1997 issue and the June 16, 1997, issue of the New Yorker.

It is now nightfall, ravens answer one another in drawn out soliloquies, then fall silent. The sun sets orange, pink and red over Kuiu Island. Did these lively, intelligent birds entertain and mystify the minds of ancient man as well? Not unlike the rave's call, what unknown language will On Your Knees Cave and other finds like it convey to us? Can we unravel the mysterious messages from the past, piece together a slice of paleontologic, climatologic and human history. The ravens call again, maybe they know.

# SIBERIAN SWORD CAVE

HECETA ISLAND, ALASKA
TONGASS NATIONAL FOREST



Upper
S—N
PROFILE
Lower
S—N
PROFILE
Full
S—N
PROFILE
SCALE
vertical and horizontal scales the same
Surveyed Length 3234 meters (10566 ft)
Depth in Meters
Sump

# WISHBONE CAVE

## Prince of Wales Island • Preliminary Report #000
## Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

by Alan Murray
January 28, 1997

DESCRIPTION:

Wishbone Cave was discovered by Alan Murray in September 1993 but was not entered until September 1994 by Alan Murray, Amy Russell and John Rowan. Wishbone is located at the base of a small, isolated cliff in the middle of a clear-cut. The top of the cliff contains numerous small sinks, but the area immediately surrounding it has few visible features. There are some large limestone cliffs several hundred yards to the Northeast. The cave's name comes from the shape of the junction, and the final map shows how appropriate this name is.

Alan Murray and Rob Knotts surveyed the right passage on April 12, 1995. The left passage was surveyed August 1, 1995, by Rob Knotts, Dan Monteith and Erin Gissberg. The entrance passage was surveyed April 14, 1996 by Connie LaPerriere and Alan Murray. (An earlier entrance survey was found to be incomplete.)

The cave entrance contains two fire pits, one on each side. The walk-in entrance quickly drops to a height of about 4 feet and the beautiful decorations begin. The good news is that a great variety of decorations are found all along the right passage. The bad news is that the mud also starts just past these first decorations and continues throughout most of the cave. The first decorations show evidence of damage with the broken sections missing. These formations are watched over by the first crickets ever found in an Alaskan cave.

Thirty feet further into the cave is the large ceiling decoration that marks the junction of the B and C passages. The right (B) passage ceiling has a large number of helectites for about 15 feet. Just before a shallow pool rich in mud, there is a bear paw print in the cottage cheese that edges the left side of the passage. Ten feet past the pool the passage makes a right turn and soda straws and stalactites appear. Anther 15 feet reveals two beautiful stalagmites in the center of the passage that require great care to pass.

At this point a seam in the ceiling produces a large collection of soda straws. There are also a large number of broken soda straws on the floor. Forty feet ahead the passage ends in a chamber tall enough to sit up in. On the right side is a concentration of charcoal, and the left side has a chimney that has become too decorated and too tight to climb, but does have a slight updraft.

The left (C) passage starts off as a belly crawl and gets worse! The ceiling drops down to within a foot of a six inch deep pool that has some of the best slime you have ever worn! After pushing your chin through the water for about 15 feet, the passage gradually becomes tall enough for shorter cavers to stand upright. However, this only lasts for a few feet. The passage makes a right turn and you find yourself back on your stomach with the passage becoming too tight.

From the entrance to the terminus of the right passage the floor of the cave contains charcoal. This same area also has an abundance of bat bones with a scattering of bat guano. The left passage is sparsely decorated and has only the slightest amount of guano.

BIOLOGY:

The cave has a large population of inhabitants, including crickets, spiders, and bats. In addition, every pool seems to be filled with aquatic invertebrates. In one pool in the cave we observed some 1-inch long invertebrates rapidly change their length to approximately 4 inches.

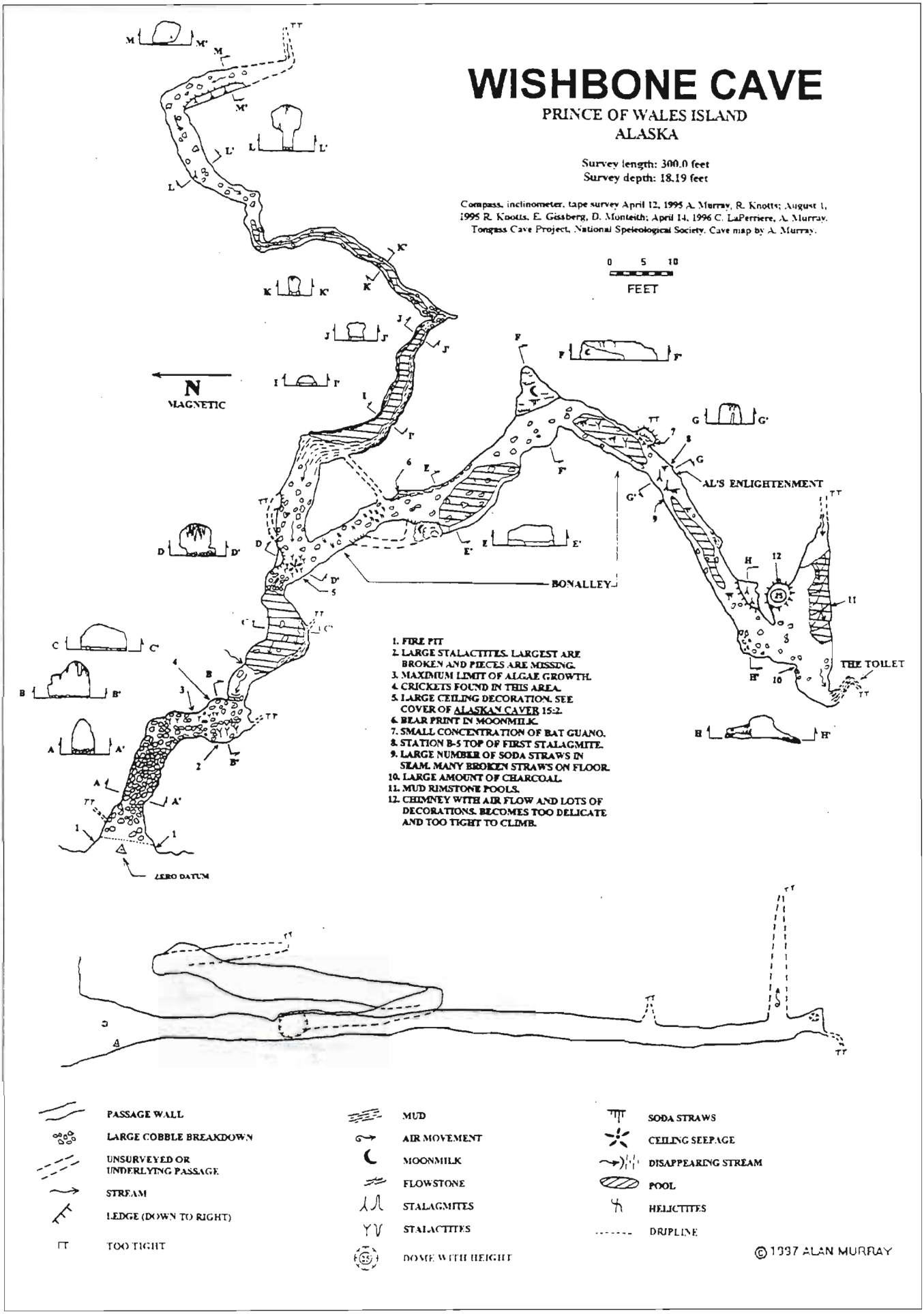
ARCHAEOLOGY:

The presence of the fire pits and charcoal throughout the cave warrants further investigation. Charcoal samples have been collected but not dated at this time.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:

The location of this cave should not be given to anyone who doesn't have a genuine "need to know". The extensive biological and archaeological elements of the cave need to be studied and protected, and damage to the speleothemes has occurred between the first and last survey trips. Too many people not connected with cave resource studies know of its location.

Due to the tight, highly decorated passages and extremely muddy conditions, it is very difficult to be in this cave and not have a negative impact. A handline needs to be used to descend the cliff. A wet suit was found to be very comfortable in the cold, wet, muddy conditions.


WISHBONE CAVE
PRINCE OF WALES ISLAND
ALASKA
Survey length: 300.0 feet
Survey depth: 18.19 feet
Compass, inclinometer, tape survey April 12, 1995 A. Murray, R. Knotts; August 1, 1995 R. Knotts, E. Gissberg, D. Monteith; April 14, 1996 C. LaPerriere, A. Murray. Tongass Cave Project, National Speleological Society. Cave map by A. Murray.
0 5 10
FEET
N
MAGNETIC
BONALLEY
AL'S ENLIGHTENMENT
THE TOILET
ZERO DATUM
1. FIRE PIT
2. LARGE STALACTITES. LARGEST ARE BROKEN AND PIECES ARE MISSING.
3. MAXIMUM LIMIT OF ALGAE GROWTH.
4. CRICKETS FOUND IN THIS AREA.
5. LARGE CEILING DECORATION. SEE COVER OF ALASKAN CAVER 15-2.
6. BEAR PRINT IN MOONMILK.
7. SMALL CONCENTRATION OF BAT GUANO.
8. STATION B-5 TOP OF FIRST STALAGMITE.
9. LARGE NUMBER OF SODA STRAWS IN SEAM. MANY BROKEN STRAWS ON FLOOR.
10. LARGE AMOUNT OF CHARCOAL.
11. MUD RIMSTONE POOLS.
12. CHIMNEY WITH AIR FLOW AND LOTS OF DECORATIONS. BECOMES TOO DELICATE AND TOO TIGHT TO CLIMB.
PASSAGE WALL
LARGE COBBLE BREAKDOWN
UNSURVEYED OR UNDERLYING PASSAGE
STREAM
LEDGE (DOWN TO RIGHT)
TT TOO TIGHT
MUD
AIR MOVEMENT
MOONMILK
FLOWSTONE
STALAGMITES
STALACTITES
DOME WITH HEIGHT
SODA STRAWS
CEILING SEEPAGE
DISAPPEARING STREAM
POOL
HELICTITES
DRIPLINE
© 1997 ALAN MURRAY

# MUD ROOM CAVE

**Prince of Wales Island, AK • Preliminary Report #289**
**Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society**

by Connie LaPerriere
March 18, 1997

DESCRIPTION:

Mud Room Cave is a small muddy cave which could be the insurgence to Roaring Road Cave. Dye testing would be recommended to determine if this is the insurgence.

A hand line is required for the first 10 meters.

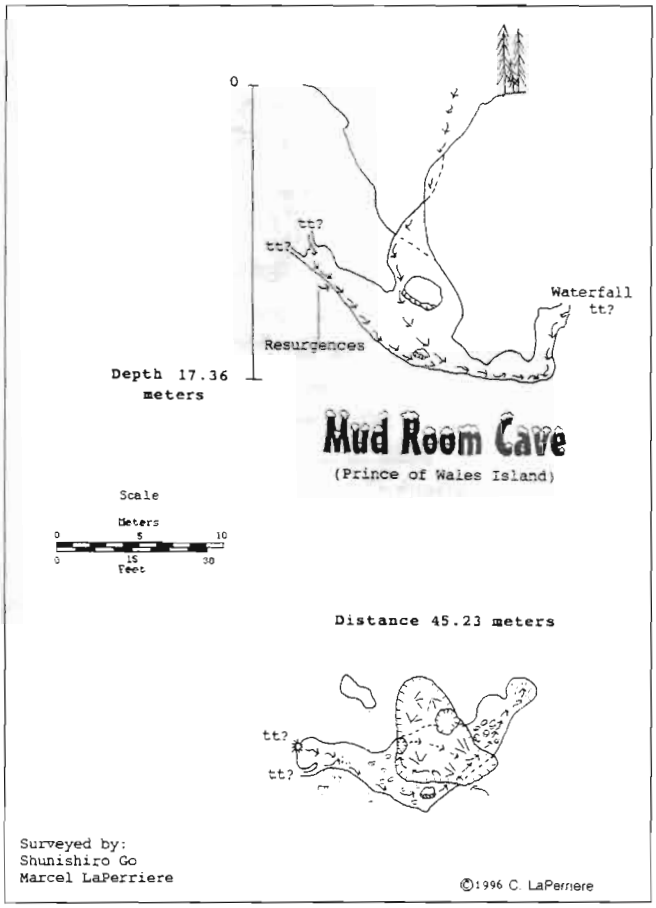
The surveyors noted an abundance of bugs at the surface.

Water drains into the cave from three sources, and then disappears into the gravel. There is also a resurgence that percolates through the gravel to join two other streams.

The cave did contain some soda straws.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:

As a possible insurgence, Mud Room Cave should be protected from surface disturbances that may affect whatever lies downstream.




# LECHE CAVE

**Heceta Island, AK • Preliminary Report #290**
**Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society**

by Connie LaPerriere
February 13, 1997

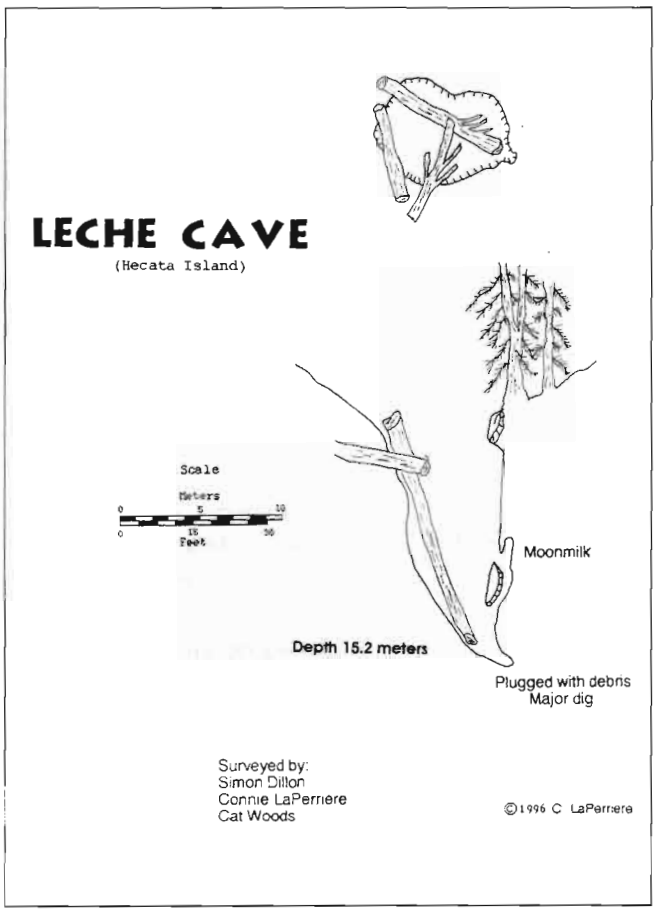
DESCRIPTION:

Leche Cave is a large pit in the lower part of a karst canyon which drains a large area. A massive tree has fallen into the pit and caused it to plug. It would be a major dig to open this cave with no guarantee that it would go. The sink looks like this cave takes a lot of water, but further observation would be recommended before starting a dig.

There is a 15.2 meter drop to the bottom of this pit and moonmilk in an alcove toward the bottom.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:

This sink should be protected from any surface disturbances until further research is conducted to understand if the cave is the drainage for the large karst canyon upstream. It is not a particularly sensitive cave, but access should be limited to people with vertical skills. Care should be taken before entering the pit to assure that debris still at the edges of the pit does not fall.



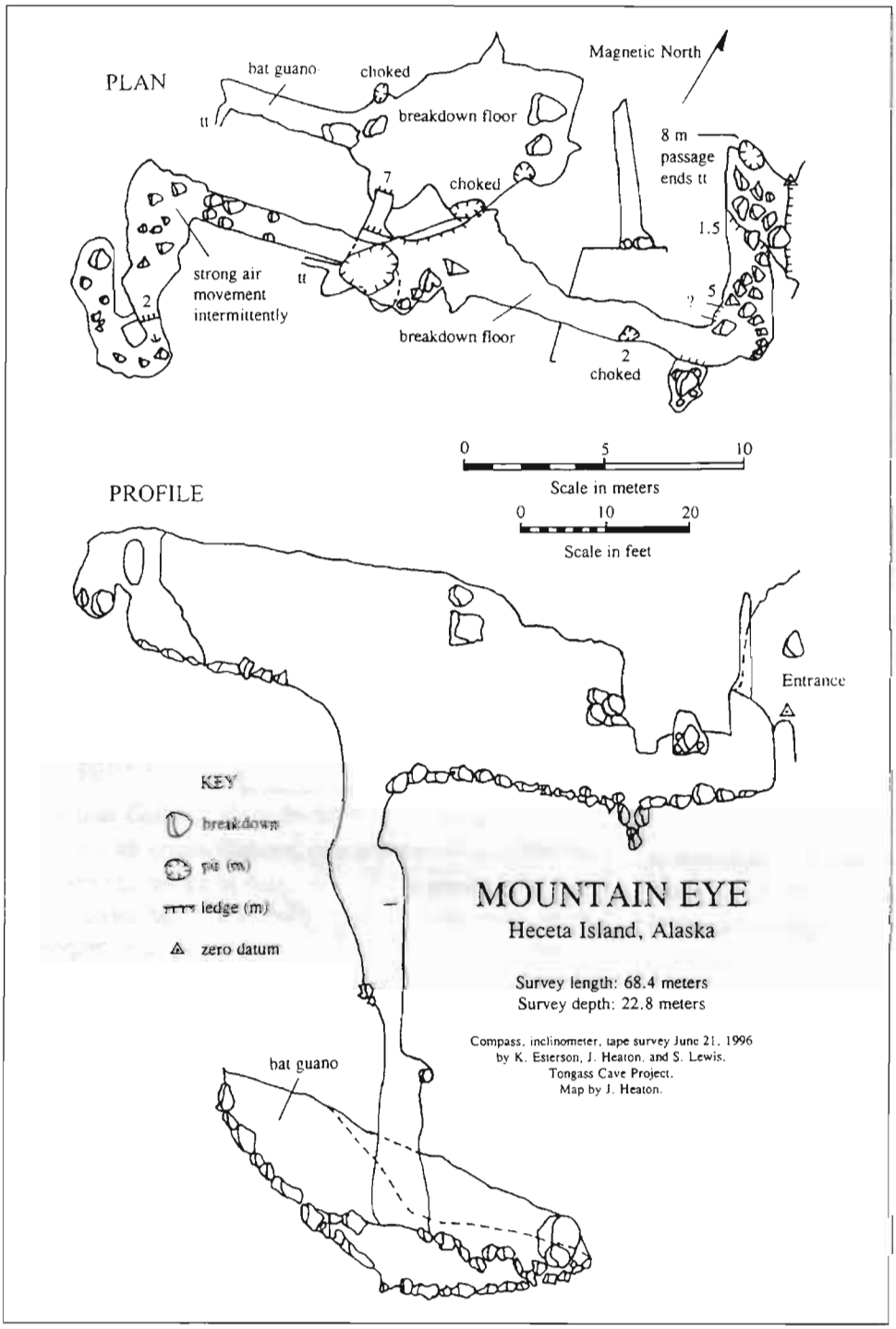
# MOUNTAIN EYE CAVE

## Heceta Island, AK • Preliminary Report #285
## Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

by Julie Heaton
February 13, 1997

DESCRIPTION:

The entrance to Mountain Eye is a picturesque opening in the side of the limestone cliff face of Bald Mountain above a lush alpine meadow. A fracture pattern in the limestone controls development of the cave passages which occur at two levels connected by a 15-meter pit.




The floor of the cave is covered with large breakdown blocks in all areas. The cave is inhabited during some periods by bats as is evidenced by guano in the lower passage where the temperature was measured at 2 degrees C. No stream development, speleothems or animal remains were noted during the survey, but invertebrate fossils were observed in the limestone.

An upper level may be present as is evidenced by air flow in the upper surveyed passage and a high lead at a turn in the main cave passage.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:

There are two things to note concerning Mountain Eye Cave.

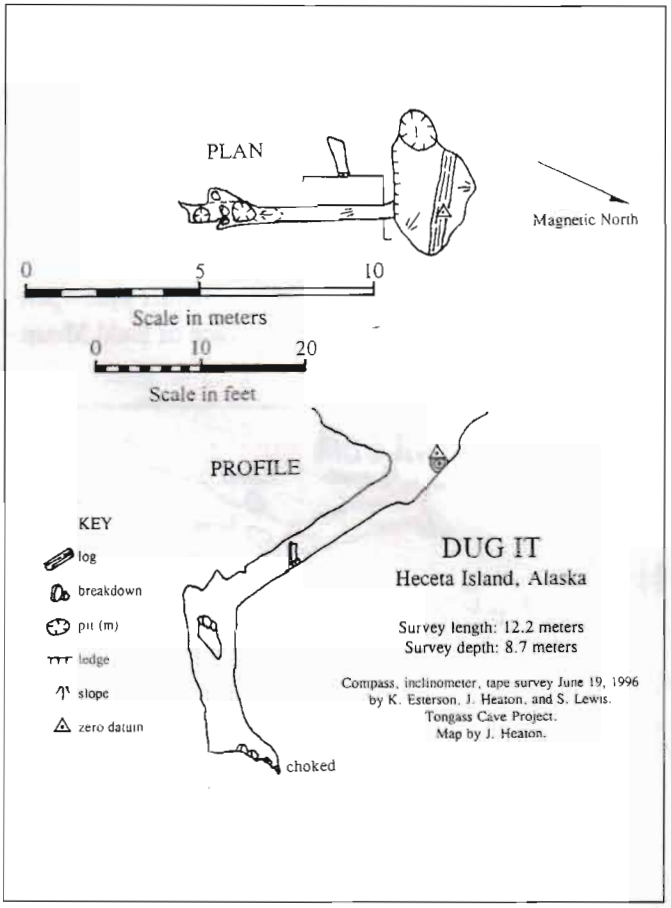
First, although the cave is physically safe from the entrance to the top of the pit, there is great danger of rockfall in the pit and lower chamber. A 50-meter rope is required to rig from natural anchors and chokes in order to rappel to the lower level.

Second, the bat signs noted in the lower chamber may be of interest to field biologists studying wildlife on the island and should not be disturbed by cave visitors.

# DUG IT CAVE

**Heceta Island, AK • Preliminary Report #287**
**Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society**

by Julie Heaton
February 23, 1997




DESCRIPTION:

The entrance to Dug It lies within one of many sinkholes below the alpine meadow southwest of Bald Mountain. The cave enters the side of this sinkhole and the narrow, low passage follows a fracture to two bridgeable interconnected pits which lead 4.5 meters down to a lower level. The small lower chamber is choked with breakdown blocks. A boulder of breakdown in the entrance passage was moved by cavers during the survey to access the interior of the cave. No speleothems, animal signs or remains, or stream activity were noted during the survey.

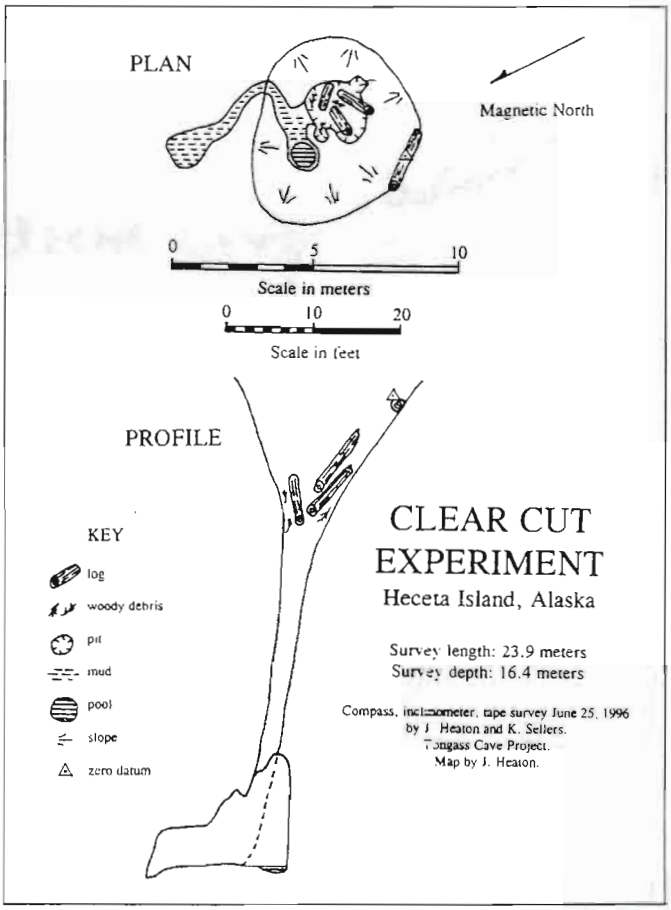
MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:

There is not much appeal to Dug It Cave, but not much danger, either. Visitors should be cautioned about the danger of rockfall in the lower level.

# CLEAR CUT EXPERIMENT

**Heceta Island, AK • Preliminary Report #286**
**Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society**

by Julie Heaton
February 13, 1997




DESCRIPTION: The pit entrance to Clear Cut Experiment was discovered while crossing a clear-cut just south of a main logging road. It is located east of and close to Not Another Cave, and the entrance is guarded by a winter wren. The cave must be accessed by rappelling into the 20-meter pit through timber slash to the mud floor. Red bands were noted in the limestone during the survey. At the bottom a cylindrical side passage contains a shallow pool with water dripping from above. The main passage continues downward until the ceiling meets the mud floor. The mud in this area is white with precipitated calcite. No speleothems or animal signs were noted.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: A 50-meter rope is needed to rig from a stump on the east side of the pit in order to enter the cave. The interior of this small cave is muddy but does not appear to be hazardous.

## NOTICE

Muddy Litter Letter Issue 36, May/June 1997. News off the WWW "Hanger Warning - Removal Urged" by Ed Leeper

My hanger (95,000 were made between 1962 and 1984) and the bolts they were used with are no longer suited for the high forces which can now be exerted on top protection by an extreme fall that is locked off or almost locked off. More important, A number of unpredictable cracked-hanger failures have occurred - leading to broken hangers at quite small forces, often less than body weight.

Over time, the steel hanger (or sometimes the bolt) had developed a crack almost all the way across. Such "Stress-corrosion cracking" won't be visible. It may occur even where the bolt has held no falls, and whether the bolt is properly or improperly installed. All of my hangers should now be removed to avoid a possible booby trap.

A climber who has not seen this notice may count on a single bolt to hold moderate forces (body weight or more) without backup of any kind, though various brands of hangers are known to have cracked in this way. Backups should always be set up to hold even after one anchor fails totally.

I am painfully aware of the visual scarring removal can cause. I hope that bolts and hangers will be removed rather than just backed up, and that existing bolt holes can be enlarged and reused. I urge land managers to allow one-for-one replacements. For existing bolt ladders I suggest just leaving the holes empty for hooking. The cleanest bolt removal is to drive a crowbar or heavy claw hammer under the hanger. I hope to get back many removed hangers for inspection and testing.

I will send a bat hook (narrow Logan Hook) for each half dozen removed hangers I receive. Include a note of where the hangers have been, and roughly when placed, if known. In the past, high-strength alloy steel hangers from some other sources have also experienced cracking, including one serious accident (three fatalities). Plated steel may not help to avoid stress-corrosion cracking (though a crack can be more visible). Stainless steel or low-temper steel probably will help.

Editor's note: Most everyone is familiar with corrosion, particularly the rusting of an iron nail or in Alaska, the rust spots on automobiles. In this case the corrosion product is obvious. However, many times corrosion is much more incideous as the material tries to return to its original state. Officially, corrosion is the deterioration of a substance (usually a metal) or its properties because of a reaction with its environment.

The term stress-corrosion cracking, one of the many types of corrosion, usually begins with microscopic cracks caused by stress. The book Basic Corrosion says it is "a spontaneous brittle fracture of a susceptible material under tensile stress in a specific environment over a period of time".

## TUBULAR GRIKE HOLE

**Heceta Island, AK • Preliminary Report #300**
**Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society**

by R.R. Knotts
January 7, 1997

DESCRIPTION:

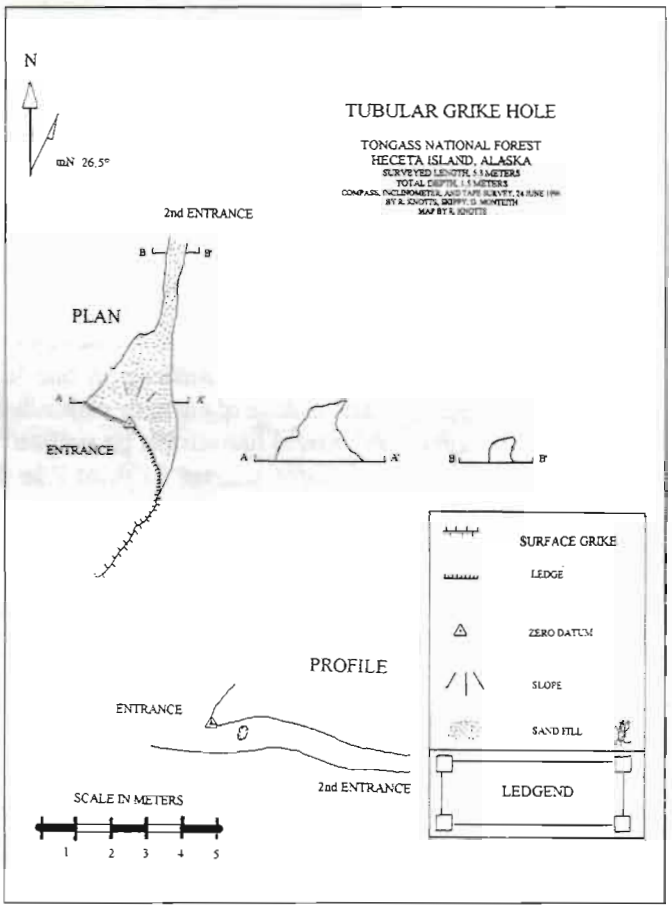
Tubular Grike Hole is located in an old growth area profuse with grikes, dolines, collapsed solution channels, and other lesser karst features.

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 skylight.

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.



# EXCHANGES

The CLEVE -O GROTTO Volume 43 Number 8. August 1997. p63. "Indian Trails Caverns Dig Update" by Dave Bewley. The dig at Indian Trails Caverns has been on again this year. After a hiatus of a year, Dr. Ken Tankersley, now of Kent State University, took charge. .... His specialty is anthropology. Through his activities, funding through the National Science Foundation was secured. Enough to finance a group research dig by dozens of students from Kent State and Cleveland Museum of Natural History. Building on the knowledge of the '88-'95 digs, Tankersley and crew have been digging in Sheriden's Pit and in a new trench next to it.... They've uncovered new remnants of the extinct Elk-Moose and the Short-Faced Bear. There have also been parts of used and discarded flint weapons and flint scrapers as well as other tool parts. The dig shows great promise for providing evidence of an earlier arrival by mankind in the central parts of North America....

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The SPELEOGRAPH Vol. 33, No. 4. July/August, 1997. p41. The Oregonian, Thursday, 7-24-97. "After group finds baby bats, officials warn about rabies". Touching bats is dangerous to your health. That's the strong warning being sent out by Southwest Washington Health District officials. The warning is in response to a case in which nine people found three young bats near a creek in north Clark County and attempted to nurse them back to health. Coming in contact with any bats can lead to the contraction of rabies, said Dr. Karen Steingart, the district's health officer. The disease is 100 percent fatal without treatment. "In Washington bats are the primary carriers of rabies, and rabid bats have been identified in every county in the state. ...

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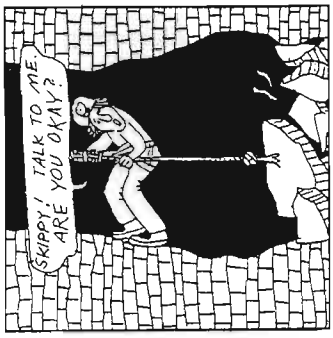
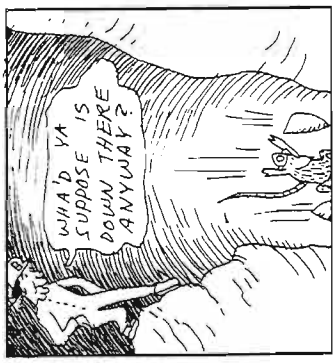
D.C. SPELEOGRAPH. Vol. 53, No 05. May 1997. p8. "Standard English (Humor). After choosing English as the preferred language in the EU, the European Parliment has commissioned a feasibility study in ways of improving efficiency in communications between Government departments....In the first year, for example, the committee might suggest using "s" instead of the soft "c". Sertainly, sivil servants in all sities would resieve this news with joy. The hard "c" could then be replased by "k" sinse both letters are pronounsed alike, This would not only klear up konfusion in the minds of klerikal workers, but typewriters and keyboards kould be made with one less letter, a signifikant savings. In the second year, bekause of growing enthusiasm, it will be announsed that the troublesome "ph" would henseforth be written "f". This would make words like fotograf 20 percent shorter in print. In the third year, publik akseptanse of the new spelling kan be expekted to reash the stage where more komplikated shanges are possible. Governments would enkourage the removal of double letters which have alwys ben a deterent to akurate speling. We would al agre that the horible mes of silent "e"s in the languag is disgrasful. Therefor, we kould drop thes and kontinu to read and writ as though nothing had hapend.

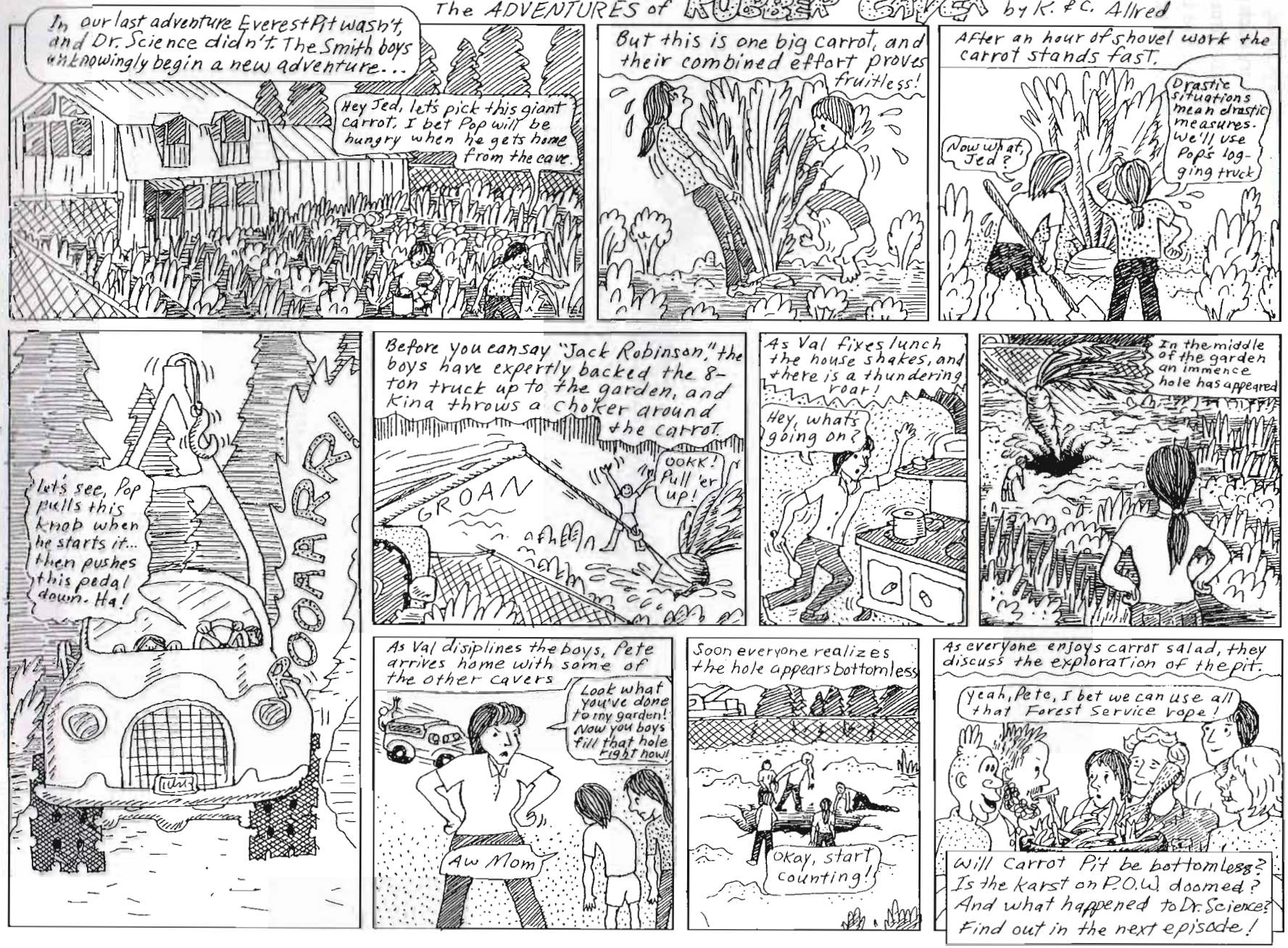
By this tim it would be four years sins the skem began and peopl would be reseptiv to steps sush as replasing "th" by "z". Perhaps zen ze funktion of "w" could be taken on by "v", vitsh is, after al, half a "w". Finaly, ze unesesary "o" kuld be dropd from words kontaining "ou". Similar arguments vud of kors be aplid to ozer kombinations of leters. Kontinuing zis proses yer aftr yer, ve vud eventuli hav a reli sensibl riten stil. Aftr twenti yers zer vud be no mor trubls or difikultis and evrion vud fin it ezi tu understan ech ozer. Ze drems of ze U vud finali kum tru.


*Episode 9*

# The ADVENTURES of RUBBER CAVER by K. & C. Allred



## MISCELLANEOUS

True success in life is possible only if you've made the business of living a spiritually richer and happier experience.

If you identify and embrace simple spiritual principles they'll help you live more fully, deeply and joyfully.

These laws of life transcend time periods, cultures and religions. Each has the power to help us think more carefully about the way we live and how we interact with others...

**Defeat is bitter only if you swallow it.** There is a big difference between acknowledging that you failed at something you attempted and seeing yourself as a failure. The former relates to action...the latter is who you are. Accepting defeat is accepting failure.

**Better:** Use defeat as a stepping stone on the path to success. Mistakes are inevitable in life. Taking prudent risks sharpens your instincts...and develops your talent.

**To hate is to give others power over you.** When we allow ourselves to feel hate, we allow the object of our hate to have control over our well-being. Allowing external forces to have such negative influences over you is a mistake. People are more productive when they choose to forgive others and focus their energies on positive thoughts and productive actions.

**Washington's lifelong motto:** "I shall allow no man to belittle my soul by making me hate him".

**Perseverance is the difference between success and defeat.** The great people in history each had more than one great idea. They had the strength and courage to be persistent. To persevere is to remain faithful to an idea in the face of obstacles or discouragement., Tenacity is the best way to achieve your goals and dreams, and there is no substitute for it.

**Example:** Abraham Lincoln faced a series of failures and obstacles before he became president and brought the Civil War to a successful conclusion...

- He suffered the death of both his mother and sister when he was young.
- He suffered from depression in his early 30s.
- He suffered the death of two of his young sons.
- He failed as a businessman.
- He was defeated for nominations as a candidate for Congress in 1843 and 1844.
- He was defeated as a candidate for the Senate in 1855 and 1859.
- He was defeated for nomination as a vice presidential candidate in 1856.
- Yet Lincoln persevered and succeeded and he is remembered for all his successes, not his failures.

**Whatever you have, you must use it or lose it.** We're often heard this maxim applied to physical strength and flexibility, but it applies equally well to the intellect and spirit. No matter how old you are, you must continue to think and create. From Dyanmic News & Views October 1997. Page 1.

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