

April 2000

Alaskan Caver, Volume 20, No. 2, April 2000

Marcel LaPerriere

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The

Alaskan Caver

In This Issue

Temporal Displacement

DeWayne's Cave

Volume 20 Number 2

April 2000

The Alaskan Caver

published by the:
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P.O. Box 9062, Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

Marcel LaPerriere - Editor

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Volume 20 Number 2

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Table of Contents

Calendar	1 & 2
Allred's 1999 Hawaii Trip	1
Greatest Underground Adventure	1
Witches Cauldron	3
The Role of Muskeg Drainage in Speleogenesis	4
Letter	5
Temporal Displacement Cave	7
Temporal Displacement Cave Map	8
DeWayne's Cave & Snaily Cave	10
Alaskan Cavers	10, 12, 13, 15
DeWayne's Cave & Snaily Cave Map	11
Rope Cutter	14
The Adventures of <i>Rubber Caver!</i>	16

Cover Photo: Pete Smith stands next to a monster sitka spruce that's growing on Prince of Wales Island karst. This tree is near Walkabout Cave. Please see the January 2000, Volume 20 No. 1 issue for more details.

Back Photo: "All Jammed Up" in the stream entrance of Aaron's Totally Tubular Cave. Top Half: Babara Morgan, Bottom Half: Mariah Warren. Photo By: Bruce Brewer

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• Ketchikan Meetings: 7 p.m. the first Monday of the month at the Alaska Public Health Service Building, 3054 Fifth Ave., Ketchikan.

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ALLREDS' 1999 HAWAII TRIP

By: Kevin Allred

In spite of a tight budget, Carlene, Flint (13), Soren (15), and I planned a trip to the Big Island. I arrived for the first two weeks of November, then the others joined me for another two weeks. The main goals (besides getting warm) were: 1. Push the upper end of Kazumura Cave, 2. Survey a new maze discovered by Alice New of Fern Acres, 3. Finish the remaining leads of Beach Park Cave, and, 4. Continue the uphill exploration and survey of Emesine Cave on Mauna Loa.

The first day, I did a bit of survey and pushed another 15 feet into road fill in Kazumura. Mike Shambaugh had taken half a dozen or so trips previously digging there. It is now necessary to muck out the debris

Continued on page 6

THE GREATEST UNDERGROUND ADVENTURE OF ALL TIME

by Marcel LaPerriere

Installment X

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

That night we cavers talked amongst ourselves while Coulanta slept. "Imagine what we could do with just a small bit of gold" I said. "We could get out of debt, buy a new car and take the trip to Europe" I told Connie.

"Yea" Kris said "I could pay off all my school loans and not have to go work."

"Libby and I have always wanted to own our own ranch" Rob said. "Heck it wouldn't hurt anyone if we took just a few pounds of gold each."

"Yea, and Coulanta won't have to know about it" I said. "When we head back let's just slip a few of the nuggets into our pockets."

Continued on page 2

CALENDAR

July 2000 Pete Smith will manage another Prince of Wales Island expedition this year. From July 1st to 31st. Food will be supplied. Target areas will be Eagles Roost Cave, Zina Cave and more inventory in the Stanley Creek area. Contact him at 907-846-5223 or waleswood@aol.com

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

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

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

OR ajmurray@ktn.net

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

Kosciusko Is. Expedition 2000

There will be an Expedition to Kosciusko Island again this year. I am not certain how big it will be just yet. Either I will help run a small expedition with little or no Forest Service support or I will be the expedition leader this year for the "traditional" Forest Service funded expedition. At any rate, if you are interested in taking part in this years Kosciusko expedition contact me by e-mail at akpheonix@hotmail.com or phone at 247-1863. We will be continuing our exploration and survey of caves and karst on Kosciusko and possibly Tuxekan Island as well. Tentative dates for the expedition are from sometime the first week in June to no later than July 6th. It should be a great and interesting summer, we are finding cool stuff out there. Hope to see some of you out there with us.

Barbara Morgan

Rob piped in while Connie and Sergey said nothing. "Do you realize with just a few trips down here to pack out gold we could be richer than Bill Gates?"

"How much gold do you think we can take with us?" I asked.

"Wait a minute" Connie, finally said. "Coulanta said not to take any of the gold." Sergey shook his head in agreement.

"To hell with Coulanta" I said "He's been underground so long he doesn't know what it's like on the surface. I bet we could each pack 50 pounds. Maybe if we make three or four trips with the gold to the butterfly room we could rig a haul system and bring up a few hundred pounds."

Rob and Kris agreed and in spite of Connie's protest we three decided that we would load up as much gold as we could put in our pockets and packs. We started talking about who we should let know about the gold and how many trips we were going to take. "Let's find out where this pocket of gold is in relationship to the above ground world and stake a claim." I said. "If we haul out a couple hundred pounds we could finance a full scale mine to extract all the gold."

"Yea with a big open pit mine" Connie piped in with her most cynical voice. Then in her serious voice she said "Coulanta is right, if you take any gold at all you will just want and need more. In just the last hour you have gone from taking a nugget each to hundreds of pounds. Don't you see it's not just the money you are after but also the power. The three of you are acting like any other megalomaniac, once you start taking you will develop an insatiable appetite for more and more. You will not be able to stop and you will be no different than the big timber companies that profited by cutting thousands of acres of ancient trees from the Tongass."

Connie's words started reaching us almost as if a doctor had injected us with a strong antibiotic. Our gold fever wasn't instantly cured but all of us started think about what Coulanta and Connie had said. "Coulanta was correct, our biggest challenge will be to avoid become takers" Connie said as she walked away.

That night we all slept poorly each of us battling with our dreams and nightmares. I dreamt that I was standing in the middle of an old growth forest, and as I watched the forest turned into a sea of end

less stumps in every direction. Then monster backhoes started digging and dumping their loads into monster dump trucks, you know the ones with 2 story high tires. While I watched the hole in the earth kept getting bigger and bigger until I was looking into a gaping hole where the once monster looking earth moving equipment now looked no bigger than ants. I saw myself becoming a businessman with a growing bank account, worrying about overpaying his work force and wondering what "the big deal" was about health care for the poor. In short I saw myself becoming everything I loathed. I woke in a sweat, knowing that Coulanta and Connie, were indeed right. After laying awake for hours I finely drifted back to sleep only minutes before Coulanta woke us.

As we ate breakfast no one said a word, until Rob finally broke the silence. "Coulanta, all of us talked about it at length last night, and we had decided to take some of the gold. But, I for one will not, you are right it will only lead to ruin."

Coulanta looked at each of us and we could all tell just by his facial expression that he was relieved we had come to our senses.

After breakfast Coulanta lead us further down the well worn path that now paralleled along the ambling river. "You are probably wondering how we got from an underground world that is below Georgia to an underground world that is now below Alaska." We all answered yes as he rummaged and then pulled a neatly folded map from his pocket. "Today I will show you" he said "but first let me show you a map that I have drawn."

We sat down on the ground for what we knew was going to be another chapter in our education of the underground world. "When I first started caving with Jules Verne he taught me how to survey" Coulanta said. "I still have the instruments that he gave me during our last caving trip back in 1872. With those instruments we have been able to map our journey to this location." Coulanta had us all riveted with what he was telling us, but then he really got out attention with the map that had been drawn on a large piece of cloth that I assumed had originally come from a large bed sheet.

To my surprise the map looked new, Coulanta explained. "This is the completed map drawn from hundreds of smaller maps and hundreds of pages of

Continued on next page

notes." Coulanta looked at us with pride in his eyes. "You will please notice that I have drawn in the approximate location of our underground world to the surface features of North America."

This had me wondering how Coulanta knew the correlation of the above and the below world. Almost as if he had read my mind Coulanta explained. "As I have already shown you we collect things that wash in from the above world. By referencing what washes in with our underground map we have been able to get some idea of where our underground world lies to the above world. For example" Coulanta said as he pointed with his finger to the upper left hand corner of the map "you will notice we are under the Alexander Archipelago Islands or as you call it Southeast Alaska."

Admittedly the map was a bit crude, but in a fashion that was certainly recognizable. Coulanta's map lines tended to be straighter than on the professionally printed maps we were all familiar with, but all in all his map was remarkably well done. The outline of the above world, even including the boarder between the US and Canada and a few of the state lines.

I could see that Kris was the most intrigued by the map. "Notice anything about this map?" He asked, and then answered without waiting for us to respond. "Look if you notice all the drawn cave system lies below karst. Notice this area" Kris said as he pointed to Southeast Alaska "Coulanta's cave map is perfectly under the karst. And look at this side passage it's under Vancouver Island!" Kris turned to Coulanta and asked "Have you personally been in all the cave system you have drawn?" Coulanta nodded yes.

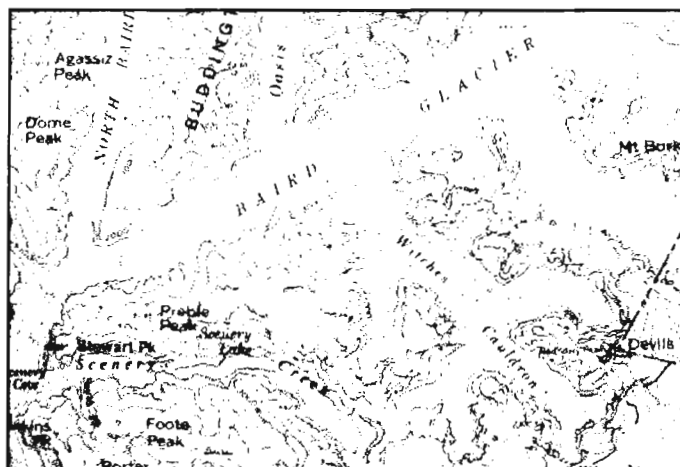
"Come, we have almost reached one of our newest villages" Coulanta said.

Less than an hour later we found ourselves standing near the top of a massive waterfall that was dropping freely off a very impressive cliff. We looked down what at first appeared to be an impassable 100' high vertical drop. For just about the first time since I had meet Coulanta I wasn't surprised when he stepped over the edge of the cliff and proceeded down a narrow ledge that seemed to magically cling to the vertical rock. The ledge as narrow but it offered firm footing and excellent handholds and sloped away from the falls at a gentle

angle. As we reached the bottom of the cliff we caught our first glimpse of the other underground people.

Witches Cauldron Expedition

The Witches Cauldron, below the Devil's Thumb is one of the most intriguing, nearly unexplored areas in Southeast Alaska. The Cauldron drains about 50 sq. miles of terrain yet it lays approximately 500 feet in elevation lower than the Baird Glacier. So, where does all the water go? No one knows, but it is assumed there is some monster glacier caves below the Cauldron and the Baird Glacier. I'm trying to put together an expedition to the area for late summer 2001. I'm looking for ideas on how to organize and fund this expedition. I can be contacted by e-mail: marcel@alaskamade.com. Marcel LaPerriere



The Role of Muskeg Drainage in Speleogenesis

By: Kris Esterson

One of the first things a new participant learns while on a caving expedition in the Tongass is the strong relationship between muskegs and caves. It often seems that all you have to do is locate an area of limestone, find a muskeg, walk around it for a bit and find new caves. Sure, occasionally there are exceptions such as El Capitan Cave and Enigma (Dall Island) that are exposed in glacially modified cliffs. Others such as Dendrite (Kosciusko Island) have formed by stream pirating. However, the sheer number of densely concentrated of caves found around muskegs leaves little doubt that there is a relationship between the two.

The strongly acidic water (pH often 2.4- 5.5) flowing off a muskeg certainly should cause increased carbonate dissolution and accelerate cave formation. In addition, muskegs collect rainfall and concentrate it in discreet runoff streams. So the effect of muskegs is two-fold: to increase the corrosive power of the water and then to focus that water down a smaller number of sinks (think proto-caves).

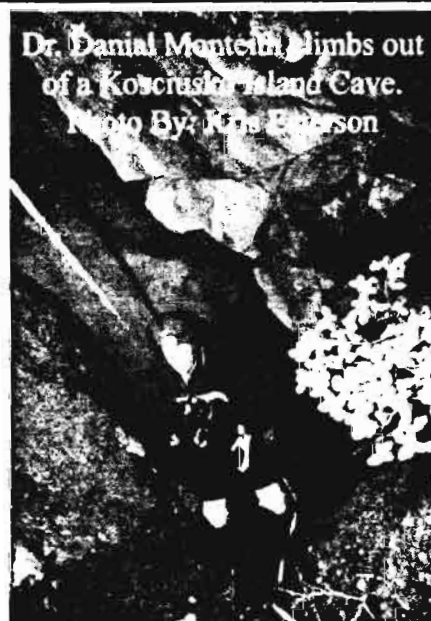
At first it would seem safe to say that the reason for finding so many caves around muskegs has just been explained. However there is one major problem with this idea: glaciers. Glaciers have ground across southeastern Alaska several times in the last two million years. With the power to carve 1000' + deep fjords on Dall Island and sculpt 600' sheer cliffs on Kosciusko, these glacial advances obviously have incredible erosional power. We know from the positions of erratics (large boulders left behind by receding glaciers) that the muskegs of Kosciusko and Heceta have previously been under as much as 1000' of solid ice. We also know that the last massive glacial advance only receded in the last 10,000 to 20,000 years. It doesn't seem likely that a muskeg could survive such glaciations, but then paleontologic information gathered by Tim Heaton indicates that at least some areas escaped the last glacial advance. So could we have certain muskegs surviving in place for 100,000 years or more? Do muskegs (or something similar) evolve anew after each glaciation where impermeable tills have been deposited or impermeable bedrock has been exposed? In any case, it seems rather unlikely that muskegs have been stable (i.e. fat, happy and growing in exactly the same location) for more than a few tens of thousands of years at most.

How then could such short-lived features have such a major effect on speleogenesis, a process that many believe to operate on a scale of hundreds of thousands of years? We are apparently left with some strange possibilities: muskegs are very long-lived or speleogenesis

next to muskegs can be very rapid. A few crude working hypotheses for now: A. Muskegs (or similar acid producing, runoff concentrating mechanisms), along with nearby cave entrances, have been associated for long time scales (~100,000 -400,000 years) B. The formation of pits and cave passages can be MUCH more rapid than previously thought. (since last glacial retreat or ~20,000 years) C. Speleogenesis began long before the last glaciation and the recently established muskegs have only enlarged entrances into these previously existing systems.

When thinking about how to solve this problem it occurred to me that we have in the Glacier Grotto a number of extremely knowledgeable individuals that collectively should be able to figure this out. With all of the information collected in the last decade (cave surveys, dated paleontologic materials, palynology, etc) and with all the biologists and geologists we have in the grotto I think we could make great progress on this problem this by simply combining our knowledge and ideas. So what do you all think? Seems to me that this is a fairly important question to answer. I propose that those who are interested in this problem contact me with ideas. We could work a little each month doing literature research or looking back over field notes as we develop ideas. Each month the Alaskan Caver could publish an update on what we have discovered, until finally we have solved problem or at least narrowed it down as much as we can.

If we can actually come up with some coherent ideas maybe we could even publish the results in a scientific journal as well. If nothing else it may increase communication between grotto members and researchers and get some new ideas moving around. Please contact me with any ideas and questions. Kris Esterson: moonprobe@hotmail.com



Letter

Dear contributors to the Alaska Caver,

I was disturbed by two items published in the first year 2000 Alaskan Caver. First, I thought it inappropriate to have such a critical cave report as the one about that cave located in the quarry. More than half of that report was railing on and on against the Forest Service. I think that an appropriate place for such lengthy criticism is not in a dry scientific cave report, but rather in a political cartoon, or such. Regarding the report about Walkabout Cave, I was disturbed to read right in the Alaskan Caver that the author was deliberately withholding the location from the Forest Service. This bragging-but-withholding attitude will create unnecessary waves in our faltering relationship with the Forest Service. The report should have been published without that emphasis. That way the cave would be documented, yet Forest Service employee readers would probably not realize that the cave location had not been shared with them. Railing on them and bragging to them about our secrets won't help the cause but only make them mad and revengeful. They will be justified in withholding more from us.

Sincerely,
Carlene Allred



After a day of caving on Kosciusko Island. Right to Left: Mark Ruocco, Matt Covington and Junko Kokubo. Photo By: Kris Esterson

continued from page 1 **Allreds'**

back through about 40 feet of crawl way. Unfortunately, the survey shows the adjoining cave wall beginning to curve back under the highway again. It was to be the last opportunity to work here this season.

I got to meet Kev Belsher and Alice New. With Mike Shambaugh, we all started a systematic survey of the new maze that Alice had found. I hoped spending only 2 or 3 days on it, since Mike estimated there was about one half of a mile of passage there. This area first came to the attention of the cavers because some locals in Fern Acres were sure one of their main roads was actively collapsing into the main passage of Kazumura Cave. We are convinced this is not the case, but if they insist building a 10,000 dollar cement pad over the site for extra protection, that is fine.

After Alice discovered the nearby maze, Mike moved some rocks in an upper level of Kazumura, and connected in the maze, now known as "Wonderland Maze". It is very braidy, and extensive. Some of the areas have multi-level development, indicating a long-lived branch of the Kazumura flow. Interesting and beautiful features include extensive segregated "miniature volcanoes" and lava roses, a spectacular black intrusion poured forth from two protruding spouts in a wall, a site of rarely seen second-order coralloid segregations, giant "lily pad" islands, "Ninja turtle slime" (a greenish deposit of unknown composition) and extensive blistering. It just kept going and going, and soon we had to periodically sketch a rough drawing of what had been surveyed showing leads and key survey points to sort it all out.

Finally, I had to break off and go backpacking to Emesine Cave for three days. Mike Shambaugh kindly lent me his Jeep Cherokee to access the cave within a couple of miles of the area. Carlene, Steve Lewis, and Rachel Myron had ended their survey last year. After surveying a short distance in the main passage, I hit a side maze with several entrances.

The maze (called "Cornucopia") sucked up my remaining time and still had leads. Total survey for this three days was 4635 feet. The most notable experience during this trip were the sporadic, strange, bumping noises, and sometimes nearly imperceptible or even inaudible vibrations in the cave.

I could not determine what it was from, but speculate it could have been earth tremors or even military detonations. Pretty bizarre.

With my mother's arrival on the island and then Carlene and the boys, we took some days of relaxation and sightseeing along with interspersed caving. We visited Ric and Rose at Kula Kai Caverns and they gave us a tour of their fledging cave tour business. Carlene and I did a short survey stint in Beach Park Cave. After a couple hundred feet down a side passage, the way pinched off. Here, if we were quiet, we could hear the sound of waves breaking outside the cave. More leads remain in Beach Park Cave.

When we could, we got more done in Alice's "Wonderland Maze". After mom left, we Allred's headed on a four day backpack out to Emesine cave. We camped near entrances and split into two teams for surveys.

Nights were quiet, without even the sound of crickets. During daylight, we could hear only occasional jets at the Hilo airport, planes higher on Mauna Loa, and plentiful birds. It misted rain much of the time.

After we were finished with Cornucopia Maze we were able to concentrate up the main passage. We have a theory that the reason why the upstream portion of the cave has so many low passages is that the air pockets in the aa clinker inhibited thermal down cutting. A ruptured wall lining indicates only 6 feet of down cutting through clinker at that locale. The aa could have been emplaced from the earlier aa flow of the same 1880 eruption.

On our third day, we were almost out of food: the boys are eating machines! Then, unfortunately, the cave ended in a seal in one of the many low sections we had encountered. Carlene and Flint were unsuccessful in finding more entrances to the system higher on the mountain. We spent the last day winding up one last lead and doing some overland survey of the flow boundary adjoining Cornucopia to find relationships. The cave passage reached within a couple of feet of the flow edge. We hiked down to the rig and photographed some lava scales in the cave with our remaining time on this beautiful sunny day.

Total cave survey for the backpack was 5962

Continued on page 15.

Report on Temporal Displacement Cave

Kosisko Island, Alaska

Tongass Cave Project

By: Connie LaPerriere

Date: Aug. 1999

Temporal Displacement Cave is located near the edge of a muskeg, at the bottom of a large sink. It has two entrances, one can be entered with a hand line, the other would require vertical gear. It is an insurgence with a 4.4 meter drop in the middle of the cave. The stream disappears into the gravel at the end of the cave.

Biology: We found a worm on one of the cave walls. Substantial quantities of bat guano were found in the lower portion of the cave.

Speleothems: The lower half of the cave contain numerous soda straws, columns, flowstone, a shield, moon milk, and a rimstone dam.

Geology : Vertical bedding plane 2 meters before the vertical drop which is eroding more easily then the surrounding rock.

Sedimentology: There is a quantity of river rocks (black round volcanic type) in the stream bed.

Hydrology : This is an insurgence. There are many cracks where waters flows and drips during rain-fall.

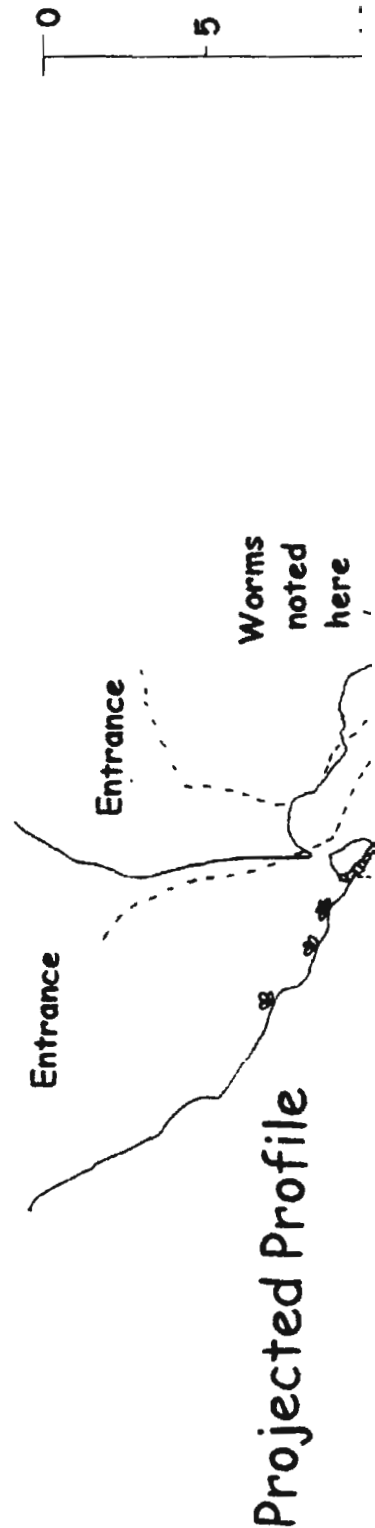
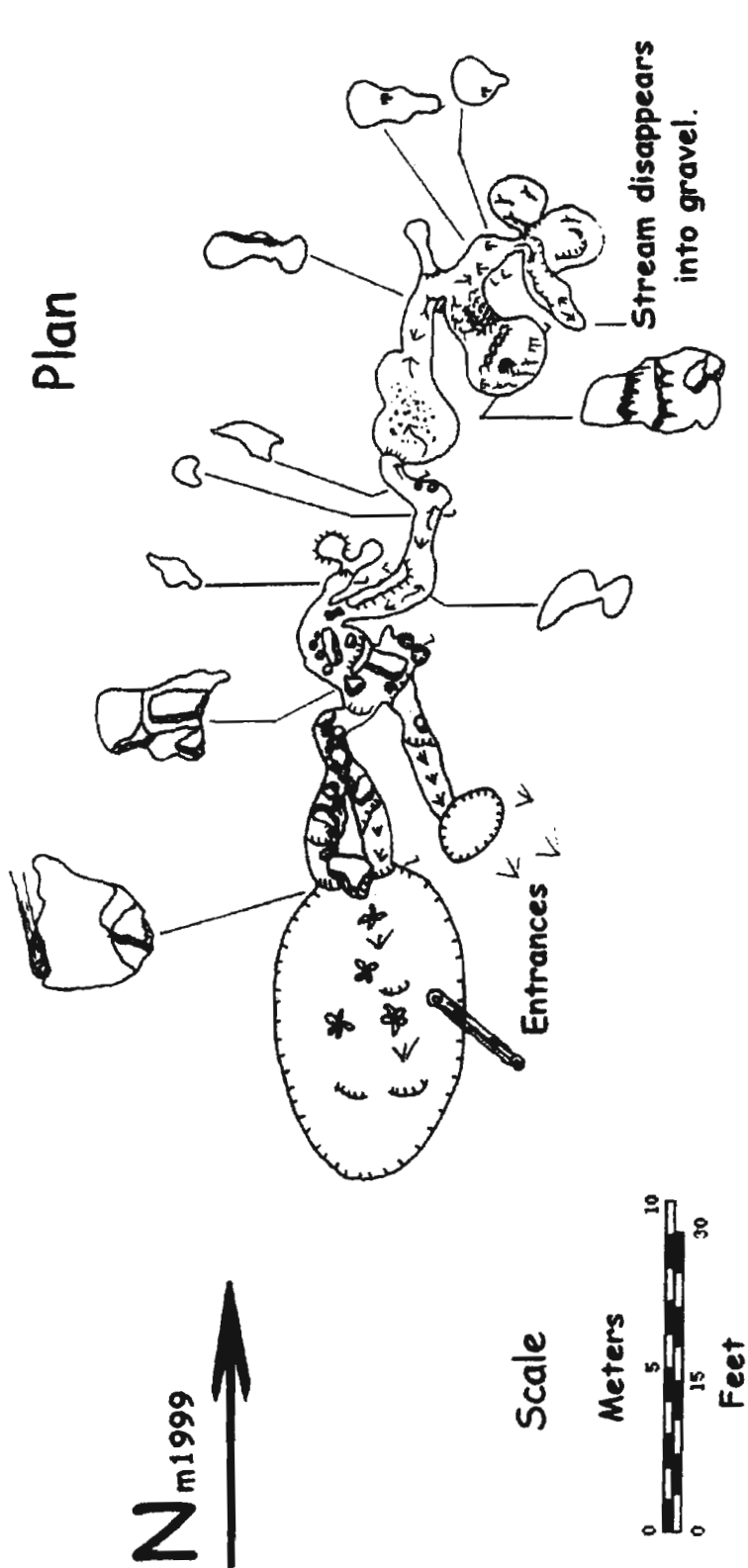
Paleontology: A small 6 inch reddish black bone was found. (it appeared to be a leg bone)

Management Recommendations: This cave would be extremely sensitive to surface disturbances, especially since water flows through so many small cracks. The cave also has many hanging rocks, so care should be taken around these. Since it appears to be a bat hibernaculum, visits in the winter should be limited. The area of the cave below the vertical drop is very beautiful but also very fragile, and so should not see a lot of visitation.

Rigging: a 15 meter hand line is needed to drop the sink. A 25 meter rope is needed for the vertical pit in the lower part of the cave.

Mariah Warren in the Stream Entrance
of Aaron's Totally Tubular, Kosciuszko Island
Photo by: Barbara Morgan





Temporal Displacement Cave

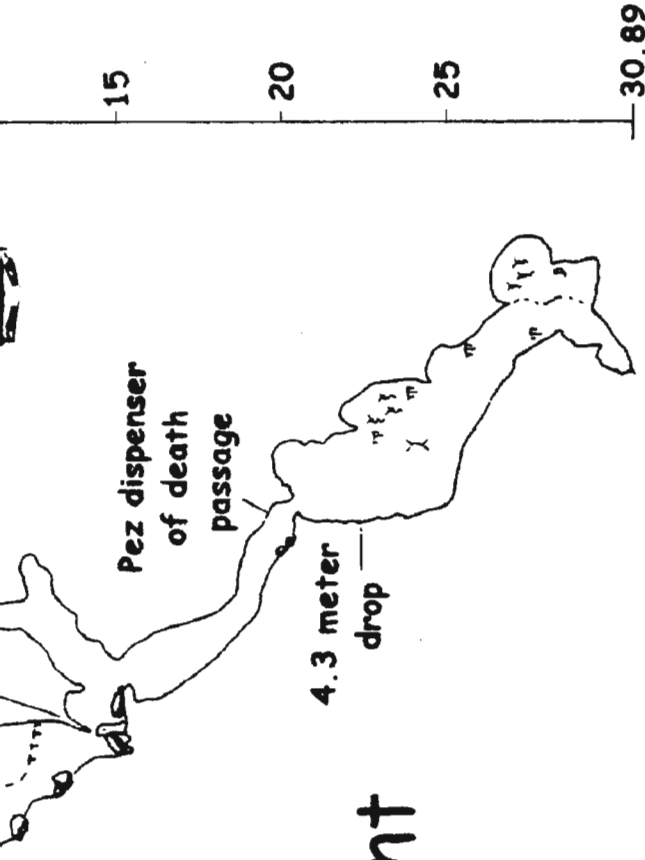
Kosciusko Island, Alaska

Tongass Cave Project 1999

Length 67.6 meters

Depth 30.5 meters

Survey by: Bruce Brewer
Barbara Morgan
Connie LaPerriere



Legend

- X Column
- Y Draperies
- Y Guano
- 3 Flowstone
- D Moonmilk
- ~ Rimstone
- Skunk Cabbage Plant
- T Soda Straws

Nss symbols used unless
otherwise noted.

© Map by Connie LaPerriere

DeWayne's Cave & Snaily Cave

Prince Of Wales Island, Alaska

Preliminary Report #217

By: Pete Smith

Tongass Cave Project

National SPELEOLOGICAL Society

Description

The Lower entrance of this system was found by DeWayne Thornbourg and Bill Standley while laying out a salvage timber sale unit in April 1999. A windfall tree on a bluff exposed the hole when the rootwad pulled up. The entrance to Snaily Cave, being hidden by a mass of fallen timber, was not so obvious and was spotted by Bob Roe at the time we were surveying. The Heceta limestone that the caves are formed in is the same block as that of Scallop and Zina Caves, with the same abundance of fossil snails. At this time there is not more than a light trickle of water in Snaily Cave, but with the fairly well developed passages one comes to the conclusion that this area had more surface water flow at some time in the past. The upper entrance of Snaily is an excellent example of what happens when a cave entrance is plugged by logging activities. Although Dewayne's Cave has cobble fill plug in the passage at the lower end, it does seem to continue downhill under the Chasina salvage sale unit.

Caving

These Caves are very beautiful, with a thin layer of white calcite over much of the walls and standing head

room over much of the passageway, it was a pleasant experience to visit them. The air flowing down the passage quickly cooled a person from the heat of the day outside. No ropes are needed in the cave, and it would be well suited to a directed access recreation cave.

Management

As there are no outgrowth trees left standing near the caves now, our recommendations can only apply to long term timber harvest on karst. Because of the thin organic soils and great losses of that soil when clearcut harvest activities occur, there should be no second rotation even considered on any karst. Also, this area of Twin Mountain is very prone to windfall concerns and should not have been harvested in the first place because now all the remaining trees are prone to windfall. This flank of Twin Mountain should not have any more harvest on it because of this windfall problem. The standing edge of timber should be left as it lays instead of moping up after each windfall event.

Alaskan Cavers

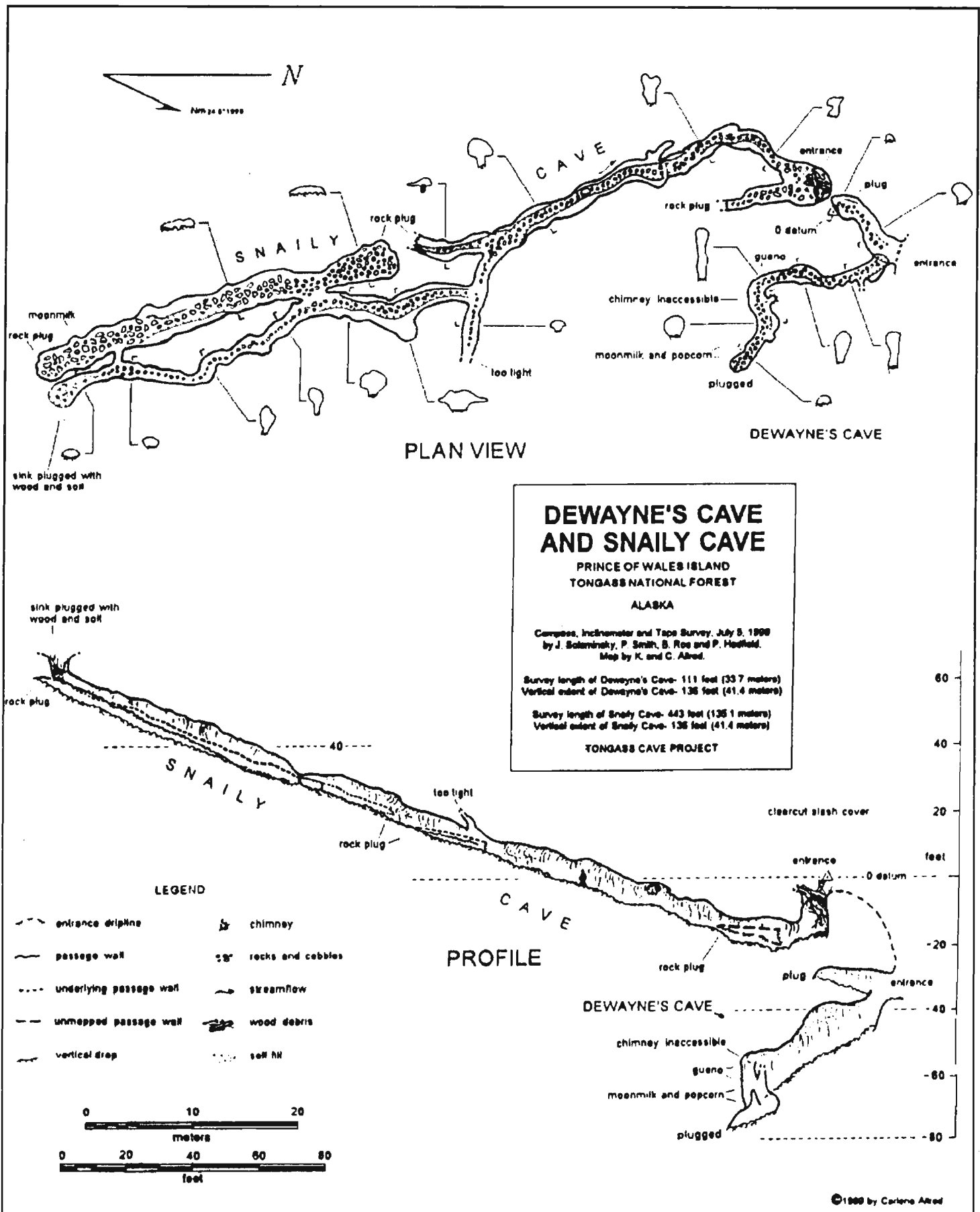
This is a new section to the Alaskan Caver, where we will feature various cavers who live or who have caved in Alaska. We are also hoping to learn a little history of our grotto. Your help will be appreciated. (ed.)

Carlene Allred

1. How long have you been caving? *Since the mid 70s.*
2. What was the event that got you interested in caving (if there was one)? *A guy took me out on a grotto activity to a cave as a sort of "date" while I was in college. We went to Big Brush Creek Cave in Utah.*
3. Where have you caved? *Utah, Arizona, Nevada, Calif., Washington, Missouri, British Columbia, New Mexico, Alaska, Hawaii,*
4. What kind of caves have you been in? *Glacier caves, Limestone caves, talus caves, tectonic caves, lava tubes, sea caves.*

5. Do you know any of the history of the Glacier Grotto? *Early most significant Grotto members were the Hall's and Rockwell's. Halliday did a lit of research and published info in Ak Caver #2. Hackman and Bruce Rogers were early cavers in SE Alaska.*
6. Have you won / achieved any awards? *Yes, NSS fellow, two NSS cartographic salon medals.*
7. Have you been involved with the Tongass Cave Project? *It was origonaly concieved by my husband and I together.*
8. Do you know any of the history of the Tongass Cave Project? *Quite a bit. It started out as Tongass Caves Project of the Glacier Grotto. Then for political reasons ti was disolved and recreated as the Tongass Cave Project of the NSS (Note differences in spelling in the word "cave"). This organization is not a part of the forest service, as some may believe.*
9. What was the best day of caving you have had? *That was the Kazumura Cave through trip, two days long, where you enter at the top, walk for 25 miles*

Continued on page 12.



Continued from page 10 *Carlene Allred*

underground in basically one direction, and come out an entrance at the bottom of the system.

10. What is the most dangerous thing you have done? *One day I explored and mapped virgin passage in a particular cave in Washington's North cascades in the late 70's. We didn't have enough lights and there were only 2 of us on the trip. We were buried alive by a rockfall which sealed the tight vertical passage shut. Much of our equipment was destroyed during the mishap and my companion, at least, had hypothermia. We managed to miraculously dig the way out up the blocked vertical crack (Wally Bosshart, my companion, successfully dug while hanging upside down above me from his toes). We barely made it out of the cave with only a very dim penlight between the two of us. We almost had to be rescued by the Kevin Allred/Bill Halliday team.*

11. Have you had any weird experiences on the way to a cave? *Not that I can think of.*

12. What is the strangest anchor you have used to get into a cave? *That was a finger inside a loop in the end of a length of webbing. The finger tip was secured behind a tiny rimstone dam. The finger was Tim Heaton's. That took place back in the 70's.*

13. What is your favorite caving food? The worst thing you have eaten? *A can of chili is my favorite, worst is banana bread contaminated by fuel fumes on a backpack cave trip in the grand canyon.*

14. What is the funniest thing that ever happened to you in a cave? Or the funniest caving story? *The way I met my Husband, Kevin, in a cave. See the recent NSS News. (Feb. 2000)*

15. What have you forgotten on the way to a cave, inside a cave, or in your surveying gear that made a trip interesting? *I forgot my helmet and main light on a trip specially authorized and escorted by Hawaii Volcanos Nat.. Park big shots. This was the first entry into newly cooled (cooled for only 2 years), virgin cave. I had to use a park helmet without a chin strap.*

16. Have you ever had an encounter with Skippy the supernatural mouse? *Don't know who Skippy is.*

17. Have you written any articles for caving journals? Had your picture on the cover of the NSS?

I've written articles but have never had my picture on the cover on the NSS News. I have had a drawing of mine on the NSS Bulletin, though. They didn't

give me credit, perhaps because I had never signed the drawing. It is a drawing after a photo taken by Charlie Anderson, of the entrance to Washington's Paradise Ice caves. I had originally made the drawing for the cover of an Cascade Grotto newsletter. That was back in the days before reducing xerox machines. Full size, the drawing didn't look very good. That's why I didn't sign it. It looks okay reduced. etc....?

18. Have you been involved with any scientific studies? *Some, but my interest was fueled mainly by my husband's enthusiasm. We studied a lot in Hawaii's Kazumura and that was very interesting and a lot of fun.*

19. What is it that you enjoy the most about caving? *Kevin!*

Rob Knots

1. How long have you been caving? *Since 1973.*

2. What was the event that got you interested in caving (if there was one)? *Nope*

3. Where have you caved? *AK, AZ, AR, OR, NM, ID, MO, Mexico*

4. What kind of caves have you been in? *Mostly dark ones!*

5. Do you know any of the history of the Glacier Grotto? *Nope*

6. Have you won / achieved any awards? *Nope*

7. Have you been involved with the Tongass Cave Project? *Yep*

8. Do you know any of the history of the Tongass Cave Project? *Nope*

9. What was the best day of caving you have had? *They're all good ones.*

10. What is the most dangerous thing you have done? Do you have any suggestions for new cavers along this line? *I let Sergey Lavachev drive the pickup on Heceta Is. Don't ride w/ Russian drivers.*

11. Have you had any weird experiences on the way to a cave? *All my experiences are weird.*

12. What is the strangest anchor you have used to get into a cave? *A tensionless tie-off, sans 'biner.*

13. What is your favorite caving food? The worst thing you have eaten? *P-B&J, Don't even go there.*

14. What is the funniest thing that ever happened to you in a cave? Or the funniest caving story you have heard?

Continued on next page.

Continued from page 12 *Rob Knots*

Nothing ever happens to me in a cave, and no one tells me anything.

15. What have you forgotten on the way to a cave, inside a cave, or in your surveying gear that made a trip interesting? *I forget.*

16. Have you ever had an encounter with Skippy the supernatural mouse? *He-he-he, ask Danbo!*

17. Have you written any articles for caving journals? Had your picture on the cover of the NSS etc....? *Many times.*

18. Have you been involved with any scientific studies? *Several.*

19. What is it that you enjoy the most about caving? *My wife hates it, need I say more?*

20. Without names or recognizability do you have any stories that show people who should not be caving? *A couple.*

21. Anything else? *Like what, my ssn, 1st-born child, pint of lager?*

Steve Lewis

1. How long have you been caving? *Well, I spent New Years when I was 5 years old in a cave. A pack-rat stole my mittens and left me with some aluminum foil. But, although I did some wacky things in caves, including dropping a 65 foot pit with my Dad--he didn't know how to rappel so we descended on prussicks which it turned out he did not know how to tie well, so we ascended on prussicks that were not loops and thus came undone a few times. But I really started real caving in Alaska in 1988 when Kevin Allred dragged me into El Capitan to survey passage beyond Diarrhea Crawl. The masochist in me was hooked and now look at me.*

2. What was the event that got you interested in caving (if there was one)? *Who ever said I was interested in caving?*

3. Where have you caved? *Missouri, Lebanon, Illinois, Tennessee, Kentucky, Alaska (Southeast and South central), Russia, Guatemala, Mexico, Hawaii.*

4. What kind of caves have you been in?

Lots of tight, wet, cold, vertical, and sometimes muddy Alaskan caves. Also beautiful, horizontal Alaskan caves and caves with streams and rivers. Big borehole Missouri caves, some highly decorated. Cold tight alpine Guatemalan caves as well as huge Guatemalan river caves. Mostly small Siberian

Caves with fabulous paleontology. Tiny Mexican caves behind waterfalls where I did my only naked caving. And fabulous lava tubes on the big island of Hawaii.

5. Do you know any of the history of the Glacier Grotto? *Bits, but the guy for that is Jay Rockwell.*

6. Have you won / achieved any awards? *I'm a fellow of the NSS.*

7. Have you been involved with the Tongass Cave Project? *Yes--I'm one of the directors.*

8. Do you know any of the history of the Tongass Cave Project? *Yep---I'll attach an article that got published in the Proceedings of the 1997 Karst and Cave Management Symposium that has a lot of the history---you could publish it in segments if you want. (will do ed.)*

9. What was the best day of caving you have had? *One of the best was in one of the easier caves I've explored. I'll never forget charging upstream in Roaring Road with Kevin and*

Pete---thinking we were in route to the center of the world in this clean, stream passage with just enough awkward spots and maneuvers around pools to make it really fun. It was a sad moment when the noise of the water vanished and we found ourselves looking down a 75 foot deep sump.

10. What is the most dangerous thing you have done? Do you have any suggestions for new cavers along this line? *There are more than a few close calls I could recount, but most of them resulted from not thinking things through carefully or not having the skill and knowledge I should have for the situation I was in. Good equipment, good skills, and good companions all make for a lot safer caving.*

11 The worst thing you have eaten? *My leaky bag of gorp and dried fruit full of muddy water and perhaps a bit of carbide.*

12. Have you ever had an encounter with Skippy the supernatural mouse? *I was the evil one who retrapped Skippy and placed him, along with his blue ear tick, into alcohol and sent him off to his current place of residence, the University of Alaska Museum's mammal collection. Of course, his spirit still follows all of us who venture to Dall Island (his original home) and to many other Alaskan cave locations.*

Continued on page 15.

ROPE CUTTER



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

Dear Rope Cutter,

Why do cavers ~~the~~ all
got bad flatulense?
zit cause ther all a
buncha granola eatin
sandal warin
lilly livered
comfy bvin
been eatars?

Dear Blue Crayola™ Questioner;

I first want to ask if the use of the blue color Crayola™ is related to some Freudian slip? Blue usually representing either a sad disposition or a conservative viewpoint.

The reason cavers seem to have the one common trait of bad flatulence, is due to pheromones. Since you probably do not have this word in your vocabulary, it means *smells*. This then becomes a discussion of causes and effects. Pheromones are chemicals secreted by an animal that influences the behavior or development of others of the same species. * So, your question which at first appears very stupid, thus leads to an interesting discussion. Are cavers attracted to other cavers because they pass gas (*smell*), or is the diet of cavers similar, leading to smells that influence their behavior towards

the activity of caving? Does the dirt and mud that is inevitably ingested during a cave trip lead to fermentation in the intestines? Which came first, the gas or the caver?

Perhaps the answer lies in how cavers approach life. If you are in a tight place and off gassing is the last resort to slither through, then the serious caver will do what is necessary. Perhaps caving brings out the more primitive instincts, where passing gas as something to release ones own inner agony is not thought to be in bad taste. Where ones companions see the inner person stripped of the vestiges of socially correct behavior. This scary thought is probably why there are so few cavers.

Lastly, your question implies that it is bad to be a granola eating, sandal wearing, lily livered, communist loving, bean eater. I can think of being called worse things, in fact I have been called worse.

I know that I have not in fact answered your question. Perhaps it is because I *smell* a rat. Think about it.

Yours Preda Phreatic,
with cloths pin on nose.

* Per The American Heritage College Dictionary.

Dear Rope Cutter,

I am worried about a caving friend of mine. He will not cave without bringing his Barbie Doll. He even has a small cave suit, miniature ascending gear, dental floss rope, and a tiny coffee mug for her. Is this weird? I don't know what to do.

Signed,
Don't like tiny blondes!

Dear Caver with a blonde hangup,

You think that bringing Barbie caving is weird? How long *HAVE* you been caving?

I was on an expedition once where Barbie was rappelling over a cliff and got pelted with rocks until she fell. Would you rather cave with a guy who pampers his **Barbie** or be around a guy who encouraged his **friends**

Continued on next page

to throw rocks at Barbie (the symbol of American Womanhood)?

The fact that Barbie is Blonde just helps her be valuable in caving. Ever heard this question: Who wants to lead this next squeeze? Only a blonde would take up this gauntlet.

Barbie is probably the only "Babe" this guy can get to go caving with him. So, give the guy a break. I would, however, worry about the dude if he starts to dress like his Barbie or wants you to call him "Ken".

So, Cave in Peace,
Yours Preda Phreatic

Continued from page 13 *Steve Lewis*

He is almost as ubiquitous as barking spiders are.

13. Have you written any articles for caving journals? *Yep. Had your picture on the cover of the NSS? Nope, but I've made it to the inside.*

14. Have you been involved with any scientific studies? *Bats in Alaskan caves.*

15. What is it that you enjoy the most about caving? *The nuts you meet on the way to the cave and the knowledge that in many of our caves we are treading where no one has ever been before and may never wish to travel again.*

feet. On our drive out on the 4x4 road, we encountered a fellow with a 12 gauge shotgun. I stopped and asked him what he was hunting for, and he replied "birds, pigs, goats, whatever." We mentioned that Carlene had come upon a large, 200 pound black feral pig close to our campsite which she called to, warning it of her presence. The guy got really serious and told Carlene, "lady, you just took your life in your hands because the big ones often attack people, and there are more pig mauling deaths than shark kills in the state each year". We did not mention that compared to the potential danger of charging bears and moose we live with in Alaska, pigs seem pretty benign. But I wasn't going to argue the point... he had a gun.

With our remaining days, we did some more work on the lot, and improving the fieldhouse using building materials paid for by contributing cavers soon to arrive there. We got Wonderland Maze about wrapped up with the help of Don Coons, Mike and Kev. The maze turned out to be over two miles long, with a couple of leads remaining. Kazumura Cave is now 40.7 miles long.(winter 1999) On the last day Carlene and I surveyed while Don took the boys to town. At the end of the survey we found a small, oval entrance just large enough to squeeze up through. I asked Carlene to go out first and look around for a nearby road while I went to grab our packs. "We won't have to go very far to find a road",

she called. She could just about reach out with her hand to the tire tracks! This newest Wonderland entrance could have only one name: "Alice's Rabbit Hole".



Alaskan Caver Dave Love (left) meets Dave Valentine while shaking hands over Sharon Walkers shoulder. Photo by: Dan Monteith

CAVE!

NURSE NURSE NURSE NOW!!

d 2000 st Pit to arehole Mean- cowed and these have a our out.

Meanwhile, 2000 feet below the Smith's garden in Carrot Pit...

HEY! for HEY!! waaaa!!

Look at all these huge stagwifes you guys!

Let's call this Stagdit Hunt!

LATER...

well, gang, I think it's time for us to take a breather and have a snoot.

well, gang, I think
it's time for us
to take a breather
and have a snack

So, unaware that he is in a different passage, Ned rushes faster and faster

Finally, hours later, Ned finds he is hopelessly lost!

Golly, I'm hopelessly lost!... And worse more, this is my last Shickers bar!

Finally, hours later, Ned finds he is hopelessly lost!

Golly, I'm hopelessly lost!... And worse more, this is my last Shickers bar!

NED!!

No telling how far we need to go to find him, Ted.

I'm sure he was just fed up.

No telling how far we need to go to find him, Ted.

I'm sure he was just behind Ted.

NED!!

NED!!

No telling how far we need to go to find him, Ted

I'm sure he was just fed up

NED!!

No telling how far we need to go to find him, Ted

I'm sure he was just fed up



Dan Monteith right after a complete duck-under.
In Chain of Pools System Kosciusko Island.



Bruce White is the "Light Man"
for the duck-under.
Both photos by: Barbara Morgan.

Rubber Caver

As a fund raising event for the grotto Kevin and Carlene Allred have graciously agreed to let us print a complete volume of ALL the Rubber Caver's. Including the Utah Rubber Caver's that have never been printed in Alaska.. This limited addition Rubber Caver will be available through pre-sales. To reserve your copy please fill out the form below and send it along with \$6.00 to:

Glacier Grotto
P.O. Box 9062
Ketchikan, AK 99901

Years Gone By

10 years ago the April issue of the Alaskan Caver featured an article on the caves of Perue Peak. Kevin Allred wrote an excellent article entitled *Exploration of Perue or Perue Peak or Bust*. In that article Kevin writes about getting lost during inclement weather near the top of the peak. When the cavers stumble upon an impassable cliff Kevin quotes Steve Lewis as saying "I don't remember this at all!" Boy things sure haven't changed.

..... Clip Here

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ e-mail _____



THE ALASKAN CAVER

P.O. Box 9062
Ketchikan, AK 99901

Address Service Requested

1999
LOVE, DAVID
PO BOX 210745
AUKE BAY AK 99821

