

MEETING NOTICE

8 PM January 14 (Monday) and the 2nd Monday night of each month
at the home of Mr. Halliday, 1117 36th Ave. E., Seattle. PUT THE
DATE DOWN FOR EACH MONTH OF 1963 NOW.

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Tom? TOM??? YOU!!! TOM MATCHETT!!!! Come out of that thar
Fitton Cave (or is it still Caverns of Sonora?) and tell us what
it's like to be in a country where the lava tube caves are all
made out of limestone. And send us that missing issue of the Caver!

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Harry Reese writes that (before the snows) the new extension of the
Lewis River road "is open now so we can drive in to the Mt. Adams
country, a good gravel road". This is likely to make quite a
difference in our 1963 caving routes, at least for those of us in
Seattle. Major projects in the Mt. Adams area include: mapping
of the Lava Bridge complex; rediscovery of Red Cave (hopefully with
the help of Homer Spencer in Beaverton), location of a rumored cave
NW of Sline Cave, opening of the blowing hole at the upper end
of the Peterson Ridge Road system and maybe connecting it to New
Cave and the Peterson Prairie system, extension of the "Utter-
Stairwell" system, not to mention further work in Dynamited Cave...

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Let's all support the GOOD OUTDOOR FARMERS ASSOCIATION. They're
helping us. The most recent mention by them of cave matters is
on page 7 of the Dec. 1962-Jan. 1963 issue of Howdy's Happenings
(Vol. 2, #11), newsletter of the association, entitled Spelunking
in Lewis and Clark Caverns (Montana). Address of the association
is 4532 1/2 University Way NE, Seattle 5, Wash. Editor is Mrs.
Peggy Robarge.

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As is rather obvious, the Caver is still on a hit-or-miss basis,
but we hope to be properly reorganized very soon. How can YOU
help best?

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PORTIONS OF FREMONT'S REPORT OF NORTHWEST SPELEOLOGICAL INTEREST

By Bill Halliday

Reference: Fremont, J.C. The exploring expedition to the Rocky Mountains, Oregon and California. Buffalo, Geo. H. Derby & Co., 1850.

p. 264-265: (Nov. 11, 1843) At evening we encamped on a warm-looking beach, on the right bank (of the Columbia River, just above Ft. Vancouver) immediately at the lower end of Cape Horn. On the opposite shore is said to be a singular hole in the mountain, from which the Indians believe comes the wind producing these gales. It is called the Devil's Hole; and the Indians, I was told, had been resolving to send down one of their slaves to explore the region below. (note - I've seen an old postcard showing this cave or rockshelter)

p. 267. Whenever we came in contact with the rocks of these mountains (the Cascades), we found them volcanic, which is probably the character of the range; and at this time (Nov. 13, 1843), two of the great snowy cones, Mount Regnier (sic - much of Fremont's party was composed of French-speaking voyageurs) and St. Helens, were in action. On the 23rd of the preceding November (1842), St. Helens had scattered its ashes, like a white fall of snow, over the Dalles of the Columbia, 50 miles distant. A specimen of these ashes was given to me by Mr. Brewer, one of the clergymen at the Dalles.

(This is the best reference I've found authenticating the 1842 eruption of Mt. St. Helens, but what about this mysterious reference to activity of Mount Rainier?????)

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EARLIEST REFERENCE TO WASHINGTON CAVE

by Bill Halliday

Assuming that the cave near Cape Horn is on the Oregon side (see above), the earliest reference I've found to a cave in Washington state is on pages 199-200 of: Hines, Gustavus. Oregon: its condition, history and prospects. Geo. H. Derby & Co., Buffalo, 1851. This states:

"Occasionally, however, we were able to extend our walks along the shore north of the Cape (Cape Disappointment), and view whatever of interest presented itself. Here is a cave extending into the rock one hundred fifty feet, and containing the bones of animals, trunks of trees, and other substances, which the tide has there deposited. The country around presents an aspect wild beyond description."

This book also recorded the eruption of Mt. St. Helens, in more detail than Fremont, but placed the eruption "in the month of October, 1842". The account is second-hand, and Hines is not as reliable a source as Fremont: on the preceding page of his book, it is clear that he confused Mt. Adams with Mt. St. Helens, and considers "St. Helens, the Mt. Adams of Americans," the highest peak in the Cascades!

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FIELD TRIP REPORT - The ill-fated trip of the weekend of November 25, plagued by downpours, washouts and heavy rains, checked a number of sinks upslope from Little Red River Cave under the leadership of Jan Utterstrom. One was found to lead to a cave which is small but complex and of geological interest.

Caver's Song

Tune: Ramblin' Wreck from Georgia Tech

(a time-polished version of a song probably originated by the V.P.I. Grotto around 1948. The references in the first verse to "watering trough" and "stirrer", unintelligible to western cavers, are to salt-peter cave artifacts found in some noted eastern caves)

I wish I had a barrel of rum,
And sugar three hundred pound;
A watering trough to mix it in,
A stirrer to stir it 'round.

Then I'd drink to the health of speleoa
To the members far and near;
I'm a climbin', crawlin' caver
And an underground mountaineer!

I've climbed around in many a cave
And many a dangerous hole.
I've climbed up many a rockslide
And down again I'd roll.

I've bruised my knees and elbows
And come out mighty sore.
But come another weekend
And I'd be right back for more.

I've clambered off the beaten path
And on the rocks I fell.
I looked around and there I found
I was not far from Hell.

Then I lit my lamp and tried to find
The way back out to camp.
The path was long and tortuous,
The passage dark and damp.

How far, Oh Lord, does this cave go?
My carbide's giving out.
I've called to other caving friends
But hear no answering shout.

Alas, I fear my end is near.
My water's running low.
I've looked in every crack and rock
And find no place to go.

But I'll not be disheartened
When I make that final slide,
And Old Saint Peter at the gate
Says: "There's no room inside!"

I'll wait inside the nearest cave
For that familiar yell
From a friendly bunch of speleoa
With safety ropes to Hell!

MISCELLANY

*I.P.V.
gals
-Jias*
NEXT PLANNED FIELD TRIP will be the weekend of Jan. 5-6 to Horne Lake Cave on Vancouver Island if all goes well. This is supposed to be a fairly sizeable limestone cave, easily accessible, and about to be flooded out by a dam. Call Luart Nieuwenhuis at EA 2-3251 for info.

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That fouled-up November field trip mentioned elsewhere in this issue was even more fouled up than appeared at first. The other car DID get to the Reeses, and managed some caving, but never made contact with the others.

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A note from Don Rimbach on the USS Kearsarge - he'll be in our area for about a week around March 1.

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Eastern NSSer Bob Stucklen sent a beautiful colorphoto Christmas card - with the snow cave below Paradise Ice Cave as its theme. Glad some easterners appreciate our caves properly....

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The long-awaited Oregon Cave map is almost ready. There's talk of requesting permission for a Feb. 22 weekend trip to finish the new area at the south end of the cave. Interested?