

THE CASCADE CAVER  
Official publication  
of the  
Cascade Grotto of the  
National Speleological Society

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Volume 9 no. 10 Editor: Dr. William R. Halliday October 1970

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COMING EVENTS

(all present, past or potential N.S.S. members are invited)

September 26-27. Shasta Lake, Calif. Call Claude Smith. TU5-2979.

October 3-4. Paradise Ice Caves. Call Charley Anderson, ME 2-4898.

October 10-11. Papoose Cave, Idaho. Call Ron Pflum, ME 2-4898.

October 16, 7:30 PM. Oregon Grotto Meeting, Portland, OMSI.

October 17-18. Dynamited Cave. Call Halliday, EA 4-7474.

October 19. 8 PM Cascade Grotto meeting, Hallidays, 1117 36th Ave. E., @ Madison

October 24-25. Possible Vancouver Island trip; discussion at grotto meeting.

November 7. NSS Board meeting, Tucson, Ariz.

December 5. Joint rescue practice with Mountain Rescue.

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METEOROLOGICAL INSTRUMENTS STOLEN FROM CENTRAL OREGON CAVE

J.W. (Bill) Kamp of the Zoology Department of the University of British Columbia reports that more than \$3500 of temperature recording equipment was stolen from South Ice Cave, Oregon, in mid-August, 1970. It included a 24-channel Honeywell recorder, inverter batteries, 1400 feet of thermocouple and other equipment necessary for a complete temperature profile of a cave for a year.

The theft apparently was the effort of a group, as it required two cavers (including Kamp) 1 1/2 days to install it and it apparently was removed within the space of 12 hours. Kamp writes that a central Oregon commune is suspected, but no trace of the equipment has been found.

All grottoes please copy. If observed in a cave, or for sale, please notify Kamp and/or the Oregon State Police.

In a similar situation around 1953, a recording thermograph belonging to the University of Utah (and so marked) was stolen from Logan Cave, Utah during the first week it was installed, even though it was hidden in a rock pile. It was never recovered, and Bob Keller's planned meteorological survey of Utah caves died immediately.

01# 0.10U

## OH, HELL DEPARTMENT

Bill Kamp also writes:

The "grylloblattas" from Paradise Ice Cave do look different. So censored different that they are Coleoptera larva - family Carabidae. Any farther than that, I'm out, so am sending them to Dr. Hatch (at U of W) who will know.

Don't feel bad. They sure do look like immature gryllos that have lost their antennae. Three of us put them in Dytisidae at first but things just didn't fit. After much cussing at keys and much looking they were Carabidae. Strange beast for carabids.

There are gryllos on Rainier for I have one adult female and one nymph. I think I'll hit the area hard in October and see if I can't pick up a male. We'll get them yet.

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Change of address:

Clyde M. Senger: Biology Dept., WWSC, Bellingham, Wash, 98225  
Phone 676-3631 (Biology office 676-3627)

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## DEFINITION DEPARTMENT

"Lava tunnels, as the name implies, are long caverns beneath the surface of a lava flow; in exceptional cases they may be 12 miles long."  
- Stearns, H.T. 1926. Volcanism in the Mud Lake area, Idaho. Amer. J. Sci., 5th Series, Vol. 11, pp. 353-363, in Billings' 1954 Structural Geology.

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Fun and Games Department  
Reprinted from Sept. 1970  
Baltimore Grotto News  
Vol. 10 #8

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## LOST AND FOUND DEPARTMENT

One of our grotto members gave me a card he says he found on the ground at Watoga Park. We assume that anyone who knows the person who lost it, will get in touch with us.

IF IT POINTS UP IT IS A STALAGMITE.  
IF IT POINTS DOWN IT IS A STALACTITE.

(Copies available from Xanadu Grotto)

The letters "D. Misch..." appeared on the back in smeared crayon.

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Exploration of Columbia Crest Crater  
by Louis Whittaker  
courtesy Dee Molenaar

On June 16, 1970 during our expedition seminar Lee Nelson and I carried to the summit two Chemox oxygen rebreather units for the purpose of exploring the Columbia Crest Crater.

After setting up camp in the crater we proceeded to a steam vent my brother Jim and I had descended in 1954 to a depth of about 350 feet. Wearing head lamps, Lee and I slid under a snow lip about two feet high and entered the first room of a series of rooms or chambers located under the ice-filled crater of Rainier.

The hot rocks prompted us to place pots filled with snow on them which were melted and close to boiling upon our return; a good emergency source for water.

We descended about 400 feet to a cavern about 60 feet high and 100 feet long, which had a tunnel at each end. We took the north tunnel travelling true north from the south rim vent.

The moist air was found to be breathable and we travelled with masks off.

The absence of any natural light made travel slow. Soon we began to ascend with the many side chambers being dead ends and therefore only the main route to follow. The arched roof lacked the hanging flakes typical of the Paradise Ice caves, making the only actual hazard travel in the loose rock.

Some sulfur odor was observed and a "close" feeling by some of the hissing vents, but no ill effects felt.

We observed light ahead and arrived at a small opening on the north rim about 300 feet east of Register Rock, 55 minutes after our entrance from the south rim.

The first subterranean traverse of Columbia Crest Crater had been made and our curiosity partially satisfied.

After a brief rest we donned our masks and entering the same south vent proceeded to the branching chamber and took the west fork in a more difficult climb lasting over an hour.

A small stream was found of cold snow water, with pools, also cold. The roof at times was low enough to require crawling and sometimes 60 or 70 feet high. A terminal moraine effect was observed with rock stacked in a line along the floor.

The tunnels finally led out to a semi lighted vent of snow and ice 30 inches high. Climbing up this we cut a hole through 6 inches of ice and snow and crawled out about 500 feet southwest of Crater Rock.

This second tunnel though shorter, contains pools, large rocks, some rock fall, and more difficult climbing.

The following day the entire seminar was led through tunnel number 1 and we returned to (camp) Muir.



COLUMBIA CREST  
STEAM CAVE MAP

LEE NELSON  
LOU WHITTAKER

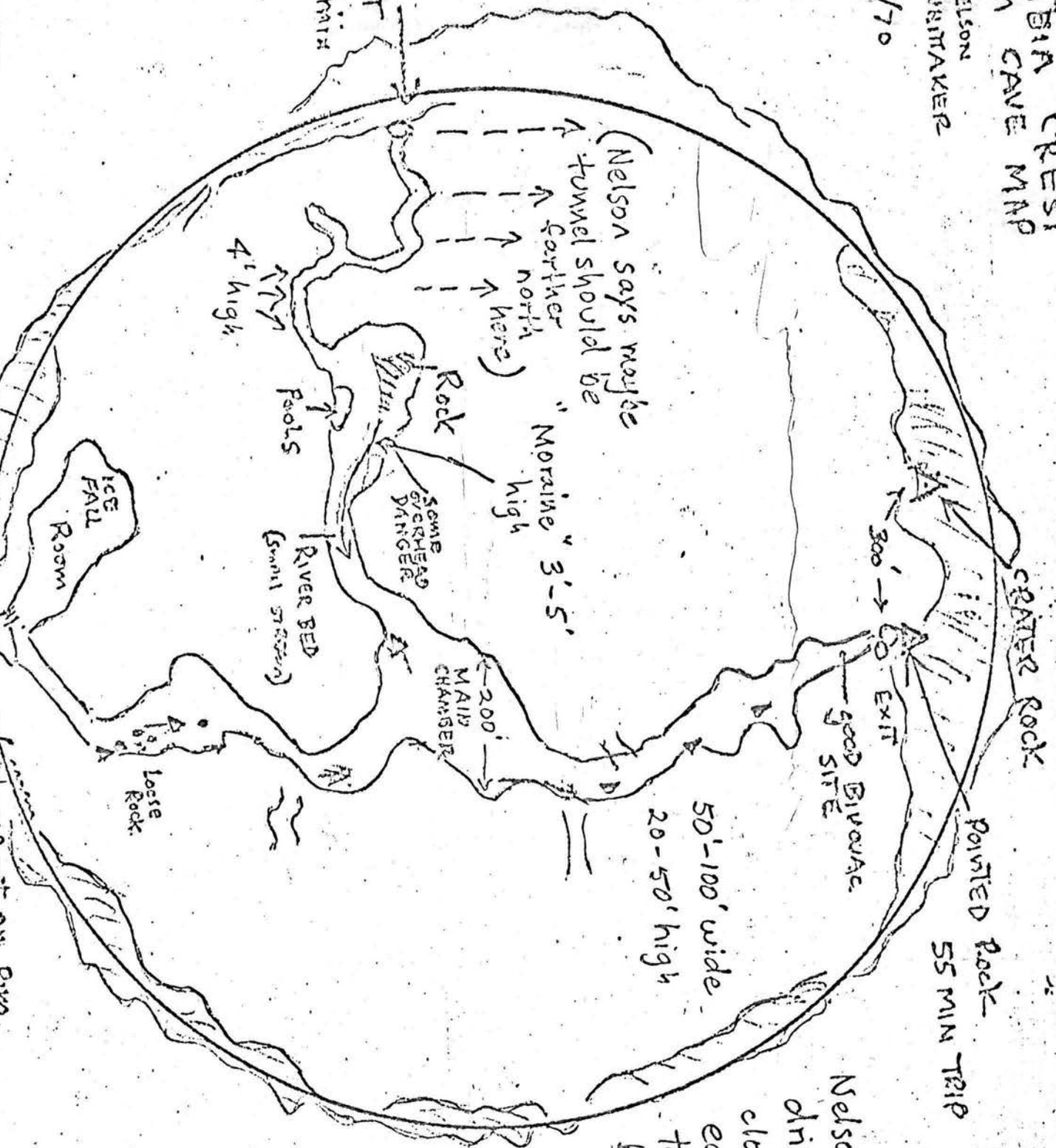
6/20/70

A INDICATES  
WAND

Hot rocks for melt

ENTRANCE 200' Slow Point on Rim  
SOUTH SIDE

Drawn by Lou Whitt



Nelson: 30° slope,  
dipping, stay  
close to lower  
edge of tunnels  
to avoid loose  
boulders on  
slope above.

TRUE NORTH



## RECENT FIELD TRIPS REPORTED AT SEPTEMBER MEETING

Claude Smith reports a post-regional convention trip into Montana's French Creek Cave with Jim Chester and the son of the owner, lasting 12 hours. The cave is entered through a 30-foot mine tunnel. After a 50-foot crawlway comes a 30<sup>m</sup> drop; soon comes a 70-foot drop into the lower cave with great lengths of virgin passage and unexplored pits. They turned left at the bottom and went first to the Turnip Room, with bulbous stalactites; unfortunately the owner's son appeared acquisitive. Going the other direction they spent five hours. A sewer passage was somewhat discouraging. This part of the cave averaged 3' wide and 6' high, in a maze pattern. There is much clay and breakdown; the rock is a shaly dolomite. It is a dark cave and rather unattractive although some 2' straws were noted. Jim Chester got down a 23' virgin pit but it didn't go.

Smitty Smith, Claude's father, reported on a planned trip 9-20 to Paradise Ice Caves - the weather was so bad the family went to Ape and Lake caves instead. Smitty didn't care much for lower Ape - looked manmade and boring, he said. Lake Cave was much more interesting despite the spray paint and the fact they didn't get into the Red Passage. The Lake was dry. Smitty's first caving trip; a darn good start.

Bill Zarwell, late of Wisconsin, now at Fort Lewis for some months, had a look at Montana's Lewis and Clark Cave a month or so ago. He also was part of the Sept. 12-13 Dynamited Cave party which also included the Coughlins, WRH and Ross Halliday, Eddie Messerly, Steve Talent and Bob from the Oregon Grotto, Ethan and Dona Scarl from Vancouver, B.C. and the Harters from the Southern California Grotto, who were also shown the locations of numerous other caves for future study. We had hoped that the Harters would attend the September meeting, but after the trip they got only as far as the Larsons where they spent a day, partly discussing lava tube caverns with Steve Knutson.

Bob Brown and Ron Pflum no sooner got home from the regional convention (see below) than they took off for Carlsbad Cavern. En route they saw Neal Bullington at Timpanogos Cave National Monument, Utah but because of a shortage of customers, no tours were being given at that time. They were awed by Carlsbad Cavern, almost speechless (first time ever - ed.). They had hoped to map Nicholson's Lost Pit in the Lower Cave, but there were just too many visitors and not enough staff. However they were royally entertained by the local cavers, especially Jerry Trout who took them to Endless Cave nearby. Impression of Endless: too damn hot. (Snickers from the Bondurants, visiting from the San Antonio Grotto). Returning, they stopped at Papoose Cave, where they arrived while the Mischkes, Don Tubbs, Bob Vocke and Ron Frost were mapping Cascadia as far as the Millrace Room - they estimated somewhere around -750 feet. Bob got mildly sick shortly after entering but Ron went on a ways with George Huppert and Al Lovell who showed up shortly thereafter. George's thesis study of the cave is progressing. Standard temperature seems to be 35°. Horizontal distance to the Millrace Room looks like about 1/4 mile. There is talk of diverting Shingle Creek around a siphon that is swallowing about a third of its volume.

Your editor met with about 50 participants in the California Regional meeting during a coffee break at Columbia, Calif. where the different field trips were being divided. The coffee break ended up lasting two hours; great group. A strong concensus seeking a reprinting of Caves of California. It nearly broke my heart to have to turn west toward the San Francisco area; they were going to Crystal Palace Cave, to MacClean's Cave, to Grapevine Gulch....



So many people reported so many things on the regional convention in NE Nevada that it was difficult to keep up. Everyone seemed enthusiastic despite the length of the drive. Lots of slides. From the Seattle area: Bob and Colette Brown, Ron Pflum, Chuck and Mary Coughlin, Claude Smith, maybe others (Cascade Grotto). Apparently nobody from Xanadu. From B.C.: Bob dennison, Gordon Gage, Philip Whitfield. Claude was able to spend the greatest amount of time and saw the new discoveries in Goshute Cave, the aragonite in Snake Creek Cave, and got to Whipple and Burial Caves as well as the standard tours of Lehman and Crystal Ball. Everybody seems to have camped alongside the Baker Creek caves and not seen any of them. Lots of discussion of the monnmlk at the bottom of Goshute Cave and the anthodites. Claude is properly intrigued by the folia of Burial Cave. Next year's regional is likely to be in the Bear Lake area of Idaho - maybe a trip to Fossil M<sub>0</sub>untain Ice Cave - see below.

Ron Pflum and Claude Smith attended the NSS Convention via different routes. Ron stopped first at Lewis and Clark Cave, then went on to the west face of the Grand Tetons and Darby Canyon. He got some great photos of Wind Cave (the one in Darby Canyon, Wyo.) but mistook the direction for Fossil Mtn. Ice Cave which is actually farther up the canyon. Instead Ron climbed straight up the canyon wall above Wind Cave. He encountered beautiful rolling alpine karst with large sinks and widened joints with snow at the bottom. At least he got a slide looking down at the entrance of FMIC. Better luck next time, Ron! At wind Cave, S.D., however, he had no complaint. The special Spelunkers' tour was booked solid for 10 days ahead, but Ron joined the Windy City Grotto which has a scientific project underway there; he helped map 2,000 feet in two days in lower Wind Cave, a network of crevice-type passages with boxwork big enough to stand in, aragonite "bushes" and other notable formations. At one point, the main route involves using boxwork as steps descending a narrow crevice. The Larsons were there, too. At Jewel Cave, he met the Conns who have discovered a new lower section continuing under "the next ridge". They now have 33 miles on their map. In his home grounds of Indiana he got into only two caves, a new part of Brinegar's Cave and Verner's V<sub>a</sub>t (or something like that) with a nice 80' entrance drop and a maze below. He was a bit disgruntled with caving at the convention - "With miles and miles of nice big dry walking passage in the Greenbriar system, I ended up mapping in a miserable wet mucky little section and didn't get to see any of the main cave!" The Hole, another monster, he endured a 6,000' crawl connecting two entrances. No complaints about Cass Cave, however. And Cass is not commercialized as we had heard it might be.

Claude went about it differently, by way of Sea Lion Caves, Oregon Cave and Shasta Lake Cavern, then one of the Forest Glen caves (about 5 more entrances he says) in Trinity County, Calif., thence to the Carlsbad area where he caved widely with Andy Komensky, Tommy Campbell, Tom Meador and Jerry Trout, seeing Cottonwood Cave and the new hush-hush Hicks Cave besides Carlsbad and Endless. Thence on to Florida, for Florida Caverns and Indian Cave at Mari-ana State Park. A trip into the rear of Cumberland Cavern and an overnight stay with Roy Davis. Signal Mountain Cave, Big Bone Cave and another salt-peter cave and so many commercial caves he can't remember them all. At the NSS Convention, Bone-Norman and Snedegar's and others, including Butler Cave, Va., truly one of the great. Then back to the Regional. And French Creek, in Montana - see above. And Bighorn Cavern. And Horsethief. And Sprirt Mountain. And Tongue River Cave to both ends of the stream and beyond one. No wonder he ended up with 2200 miles on his (formerly) new truck!

Sounds like the greatest year ever. But wait til '72!



## HORNE LAKE'S WONDER CAVES

By

Clarence L. Hronke

Over a period of nine months, from November 1962 to July 1963, four visits were made to the Horne Lake caves on Vancouver Island by the B.C. Cave Hunters (now the Canadian Speleological Society).

### Type of Entrance

The caves are in limestone that runs north and south at the west end of Horne Lake. Thick vegetation overlies the area, making it difficult to find new caves. The three western cave entrances are at the base of a cliff. Main Horne Lake Cave has a 16-inch, slot-like entrance. Lower Horne Lake Cave has an overhang with a walk-in hole-type entrance. Crawl cave has two crawl-type entrances. On the top of the cliff one can see Horne Lake, which has a small island.

### Main Horne Lake Cave

Entrance to Main Horne Lake Cave is gained by a series of winding passages. Until recent discoveries, the cave was 350 feet long. The cave has calcite flows and galleries with stalactites and stalagmites.

### Lower Horne Lake Cave

The cave is 140 feet long and 40 feet high at its tallest point. There are calcite flows and galleries of stalactites and stalagmites, which have been damaged by previous visitors. Water enters at the far end of the cave through a siphon.

### Crawl Cave

This cave consists of two entrances and two passages with no calcite areas or water, with narrow passages on the right and left sides, extending for about 30 feet. They are crawl-type passages, two to three feet high and three to five feet wide.

### Egg Shell Cave

This cave was found July 2, 1963, by the author accompanied by J.S. Ford, of Lake Cowichan. I have named it Egg Shell Cave because of the hollow sounding floor.

QUEEN CITY AND SNOWSLIDE CAVES, CENTRAL NEVADA  
By Alvin McLane, NSS 4292  
Reno, Nevada, June, 1968

INTRODUCTION

During April of this year a couple of interesting caves were visited in the uninhabited desert country of central Nevada. The investigations were conducted by Gary Farnsworth, Joe Schmidt and the writer, all members of the Great Basin Grotto of the N. S. S. The writer visited the caves last year, and as the trip was solo, only cursory notes were made. The present trip was initiated to obtain additional data.

QUEEN CITY CAVE

Introduction

Queen City Cave is in eastern Nye County, in unnamed hills south of the Quinn Canyon Range, at an altitude of about 6,000 feet. The exposed bedrock in the mountaineous areas are mainly Tertiary volcanics (Cornwall, 1967). A major block of Paleozoic carbonates is exposed, and in this sedimentary mass is Queen City Cave. In the immediate area, cinnabar has been mined for quicksilver intermittantly since 1929 (Bailey and Phoenix, 1944, p. 154-155).

Geology

According to Cornwall the cave would be in the Nopah Formation of Upper Cambrian age. The limestone (or dolomite) at the cave is light gray and affinitic, with abundant chert. Apparently, the cave is of phreatic origin. The cavern developement has occurred along a north 45 degree east trending fault. The strike is north 10 degrees east and the dip is 10 degrees east.

### Cave Description

The cave may be entered by either of two entrances. A 75-foot drop can be made through a 10-foot long slot into the main room. The other entrance is less spectacular and is a hole 4 feet square. Down this is a 15-foot drop via a wooden ladder. A less steep slope continues down ladders that aren't necessary to use. This leads into the main room, 100 feet long and 30 feet wide. This room is floored with rubble and back fill from a 200-foot long drift. The length of the cave counting the Boneyard Room, is 239 feet.

A short passage near the ladders connects with the Boneyard Room. In this room are many bird and packrat skeletons, often with mummified skin attached. A dead snake, unidentified, also, was well preserved.

Another interesting feature connected with the cave is a drift about 200 feet long. This was mined for small amounts of cinnabar that occurred along a vertical fault.

Speleothems are nearly lacking in the cave except for some minor deposition in the Boneyard Room.

### SNOWSLIDE CAVE

#### Introduction

Snowslide Cave is in western Lincoln County at an altitude of about 6,800 feet. It is located on the east side of the Groom Range, north of 9,348-foot Bald Mountain (Mount Baldy as it is called locally). Areas north and south of the cave has had considerably mining activity, but in the cave vicinity, this author doesn't know of any recorded history. Broken projectile points and remnants of an old trail, apparently of white man origin, were noted high on the

west side of the range. Also, near the cave a mining claim was noted. The claim was probably recorded for the purpose of extracting guano from the cave.

### Geology

As in the case of Queen City Cave, Snowslide Cave is in an isolated block of Paleozoic carbonates. To the west, Precambrian and Cambrian quartzites prevail and eastward the rocks are Tertiary volcanics (Tschanz and Pampeyan, 1961). Tschanz and Pampeyan designate the rock that the cave is in as limestone and dolomite of Upper Cambrian age, approximately equivalent to the Mendha Limestone of the Pioche district and the Windfall Formation of the Eureka district. Barnes and Christiansen (1967) have written a paper on the Groom district to the south. They have the speleoliferous rock assigned to the Nopah Formation. In the Groom district it totals 1,725 feet (excluding the Dunderberg Shale member). At Snowslide Cave, the bedrock strikes north 60 degrees east and the dip is 42 degrees south. The cave seems to have very little structural control and is apparently of phreatic origin. Development has occurred along the strike and the cave is essentially horizontal; the floor plan completely disregarding the 42 degree dip.

### Cave Description

Entrance to the cave is through a 7-foot circular hole. A short slope leads to the Boardwalk Room. This room is nearly 100 feet long and 40 feet wide. Boards had been placed over the rough floor to help in the removal of guano from the adjoining room. East of the area where the guano was mined is a short upper level 34 feet long.

From the mined area, a wide flat crawl, for several feet under a ceiling less than two feet high, leads to the Surprise Room. This room is nearly 75 feet long and 30 feet wide; the original form of the room is now well modified by breakdown. In the back of this room, up over a shelf, the cave continues 20 feet.

The cave is 368 feet long and certain portions are nicely decorated with the more common speleothems.

. . . .

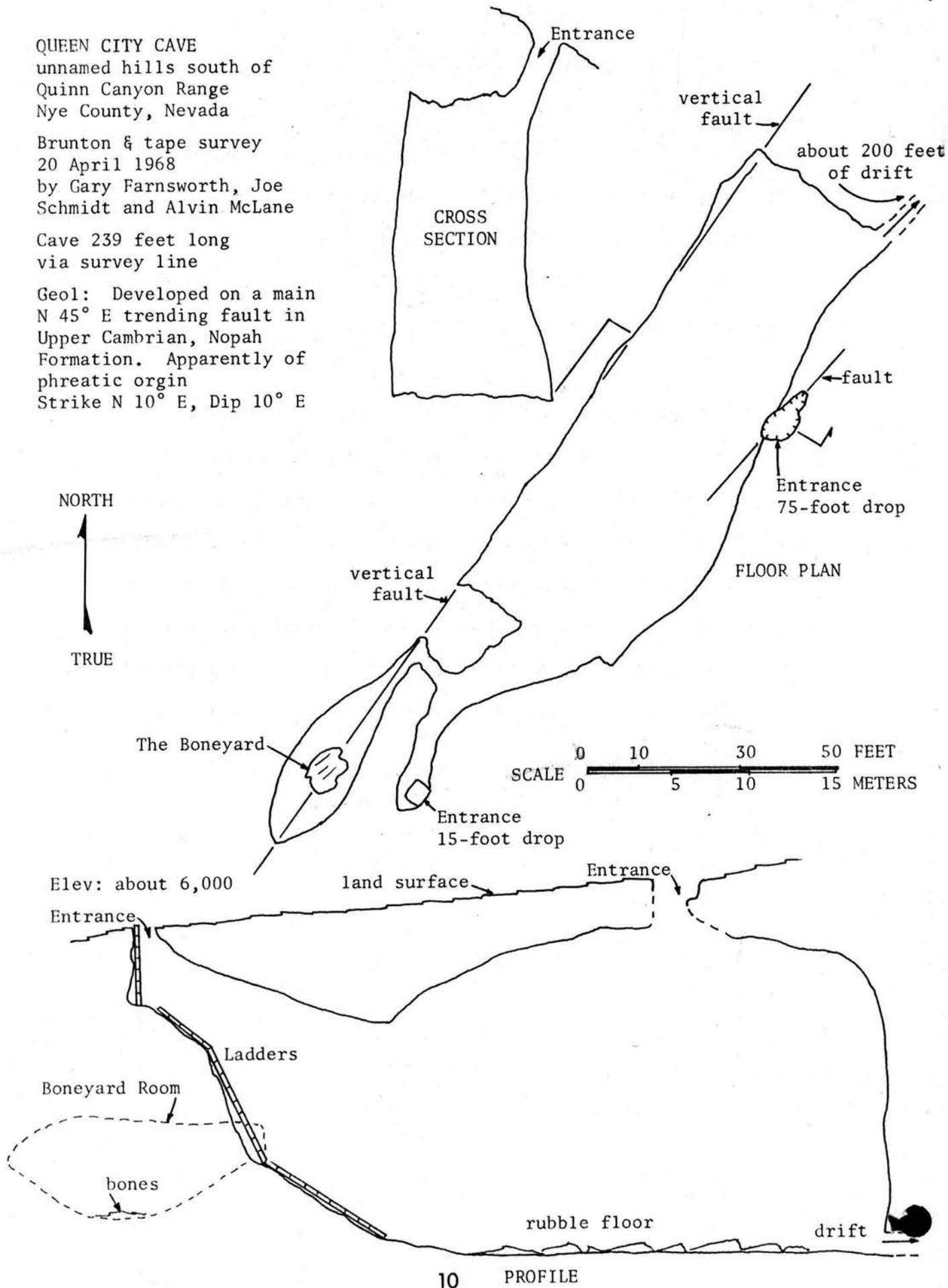
Though, neither Queen City Cave or Snowslide Cave is extraordinary, both have interesting features, that if coupled with the surrounding country, a cave trip to this area will be rewarding. An interesting 2-pipe D retort, complete with mine car and crimson colored cinnabar tailings, are on the premises at Queen City Cave. Of the entire area, here the Northern and Southern deserts flora meet, presenting eye-catching flowers (in season) and interesting botanizing. But, above all, the awesomeness and quietness of the desert prevails. . . .

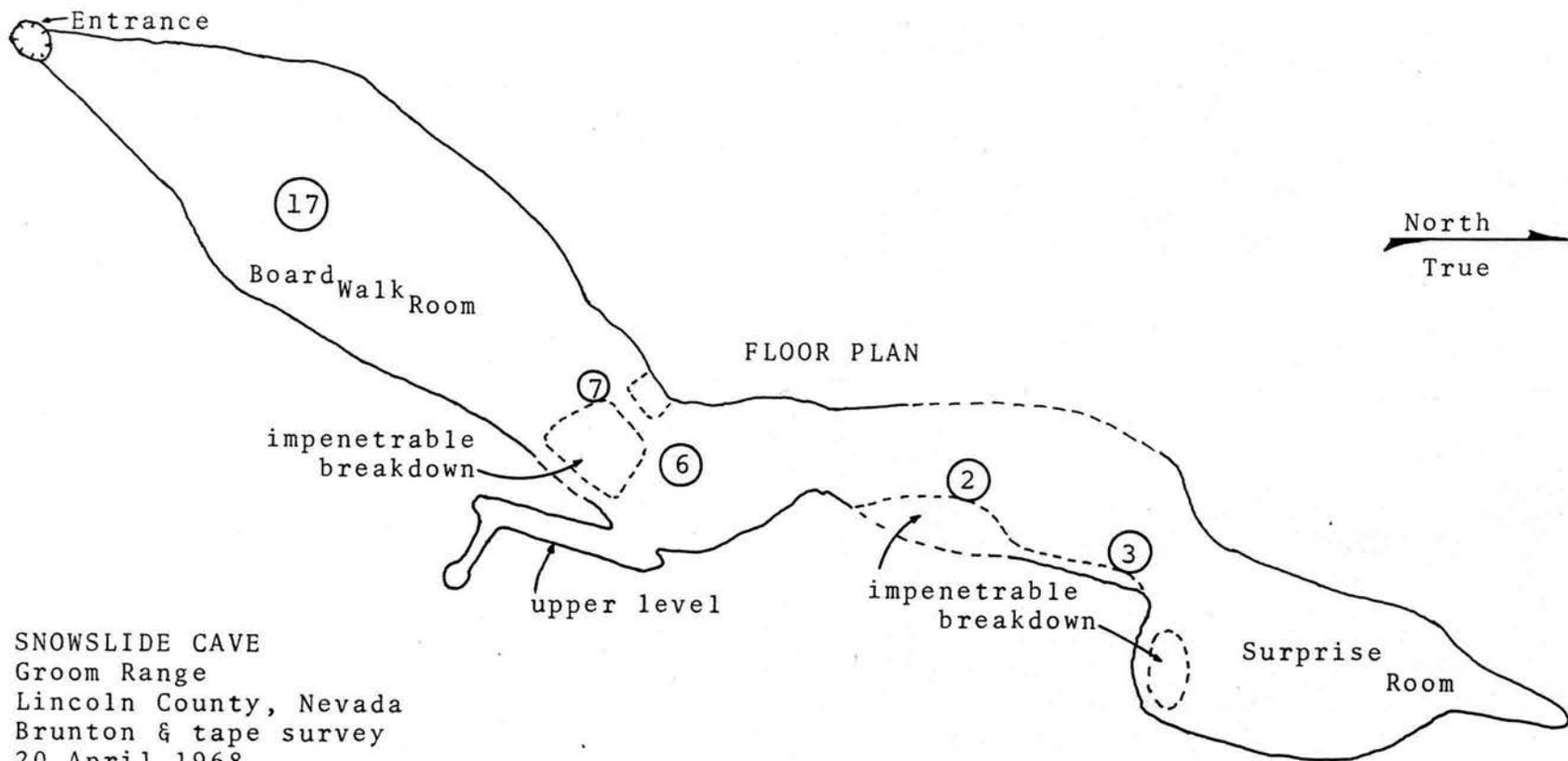
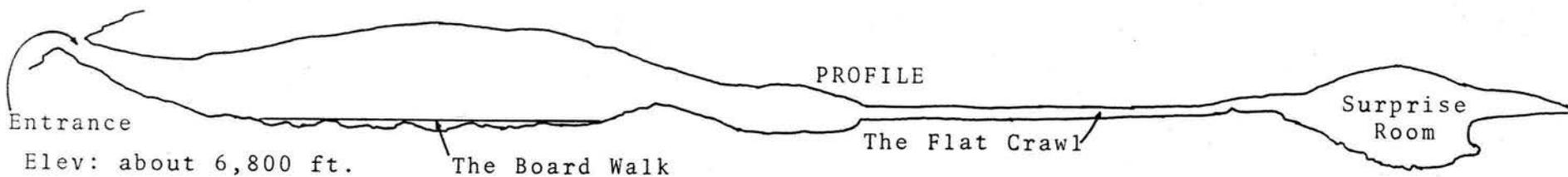
QUEEN CITY CAVE  
 unnamed hills south of  
 Quinn Canyon Range  
 Nye County, Nevada

Brunton & tape survey  
 20 April 1968  
 by Gary Farnsworth, Joe  
 Schmidt and Alvin McLane

Cave 239 feet long  
 via survey line

Geol: Developed on a main  
 N 45° E trending fault in  
 Upper Cambrian, Nopah  
 Formation. Apparently of  
 phreatic origin  
 Strike N 10° E, Dip 10° E





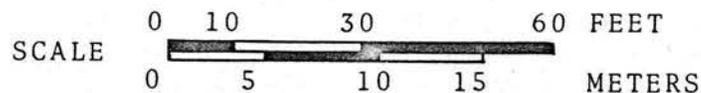
SNOWSLIDE CAVE  
Groom Range  
Lincoln County, Nevada  
Brunton & tape survey  
20 April 1968

by Gary Farnsworth, Joe Schmidt  
and Alvin McLane

Cave is 368 feet long

Geol: Formed along the strike  
which is  $N 60^{\circ} E$ , dip is  $40^{\circ} S$   
in Upper Cambrian, Nopah Formation  
Apparently of phreatic origin

7 Ceiling height in feet





Gary Farnswort roping down  
75-foot entrance into Queen  
City Cave.

Ektachrome - X By Alvin Mclane



UNEXPLORED PITS IN MONTANA

- Newell Campbell

NAME	LOCATION	DEPTH (INITIAL DROP)	ACCURACY OF ESTIMATE
Browns Coulee Cave	Big Snowies	100+	Poor
Dry Pole Sink	" "	20	Excellent
Trailside Cave	" "	75+	Good
Thunder Mtn. Cave	L. Belts	200	Fair
Hoover Springs Pit	"	250+	Excellent
Rice Hole	Castle Mtns.	100	Poor
Honeywell Hole	N. Moccasins	100+	Good
Lost Creek Siphon	Absaroka	50+	Poor
Lost Cave	Dillon	100+	Poor
Crow Creek Crevice	Three Forks	60+	Good
Alps Double Pit	Bob Marshall	80	Excellent
Ibex Mtn. Pit	" "	75+	Fair
Sawtooth Mtn. Cave	" "	100+	Excellent
Ear Mt. Cave	" "	100+	Fair
Volcano Reef Cave	" "	100+	Fair
Silvertip Basin Sink	" "	150+	Poor
Hritsch Ice (3rd drop)	Kalispell	50	Good

These pits are definitely known to exist. I have records on some 15 others, unconfirmed and without depth estimates.

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The Cascade Caver  
 1117 36th Avenue East  
 Seattle, Wash. 98102

Printed matter