

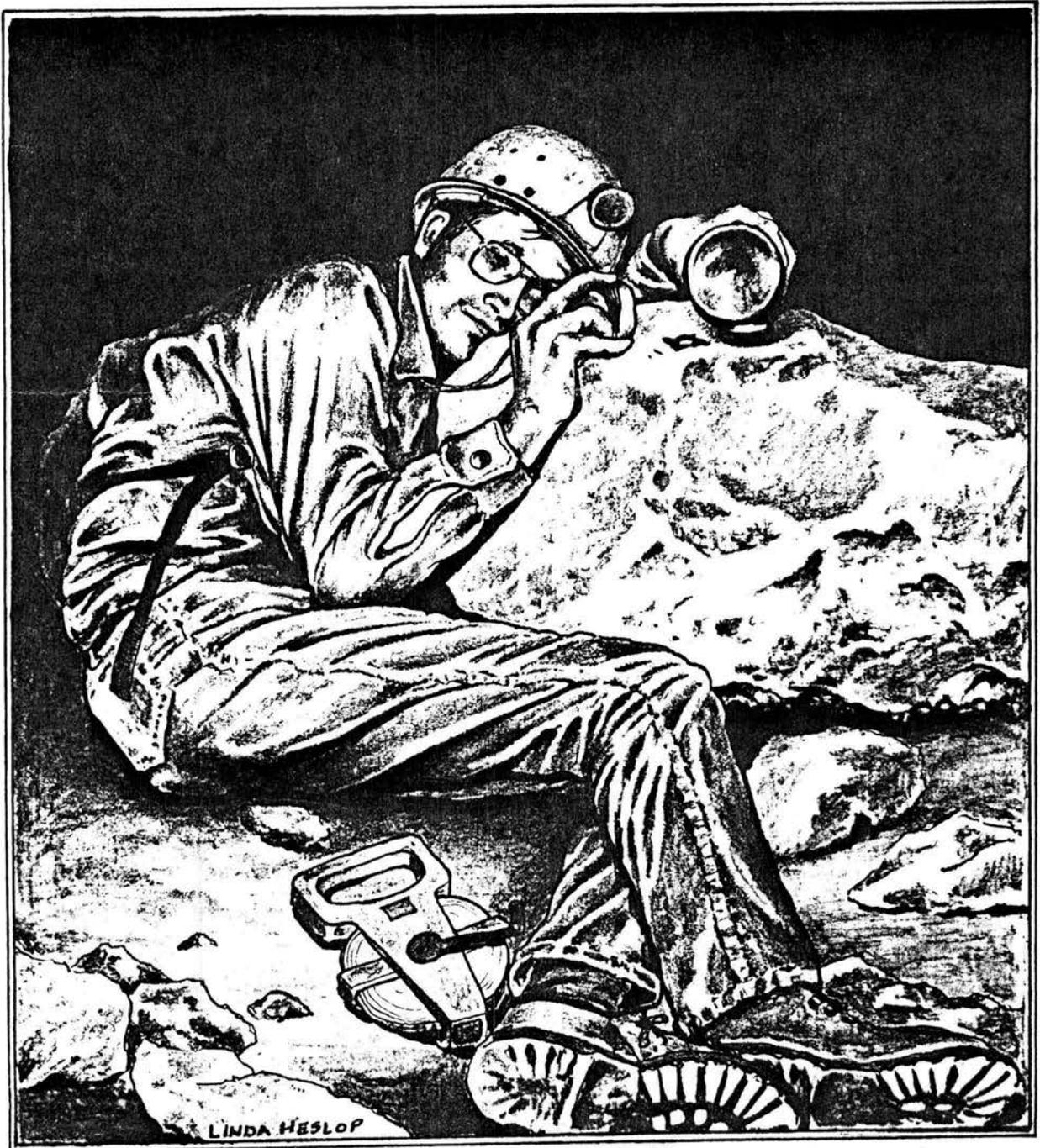
The Cascade Caver



Published by the Cascade Grotto of the National Speleological Society

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Nov-Dec 1986



CASCADE CAVER

The CASCADE CAVER is published 10 times a year by the Cascade Grotto, a member of the National Speleological Society.

Meetings: 7:00 pm on the third Tuesday of each month at the University of Washington, room 6 in the basement of Johnson Hall.

Officers:

| | | |
|---------------------|---------------|----------------|
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| Vice Chairman: | Jeff Forbes | (206) 524-2443 |
| Sec/Treasurer: | Al Lundberg | (206) 365-7255 |
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Dues: Membership in the Cascade Grotto including subscription to the Cascade Caver is \$7.50 per year. Dues for additional family members is \$1.00. Subscription to the Cascade Caver only is \$7.50 per year. Send subscription or membership requests to grotto treasurer:

Al Lundberg at 19221 - 38th Place N.E., Seattle, WA 98155.

Overdue: Please note the date on your mailing label that indicates when your dues expire. The following folks appears in arrears:

| | | | | |
|-----------|--------------|-------|-------------------|-------|
| Over due: | Jeff Gillard | 10/86 | Robert Martin | 11/86 |
| | Art Tasker | 11/86 | Dr. W.R. Halliday | 12/86 |
| | Dave Klinger | 12/86 | | |
| Due Soon: | David Becker | 1/87 | Peter Carter | 1/87 |
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| | Jeff Forbes | 2/87 | Jim Harp | 3/87 |
| | Al Lundberg | 3/87 | Maurice Magee | 3/87 |
| | Mark Wilson | 3/87 | | |

Mail: All other correspondence should be sent to:

The Cascade Grotto, P.O. Box 75663, Seattle, WA 98125-0663.

New Member: John Clardy, 1903 Lakeway Drive, Bellingham, WA 98226. Some of us already know John from the 1985 Bighorn work session. He is interested in caving activities in the Watcom county area.

Cover: Here is another of Linda Heslop's drawings from the Bighorn Project. This one shows Mike Wiles, of South Dakota, in Bighorn Cavern.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

| | |
|----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Dec 16 | Grotto meeting at the University of Washington. |
| Jan 16 | Grotto meeting at the University of Washington. |
| Jan 17 | Meeting to discuss grotto safety and rescue preparedness. Time and place to be decided at the December grotto meeting. |
| Feb 20 | Grotto meeting at the University of Washington. |
| Mar 20 | Grotto meeting at the University of Washington. |
| Apr 17 | Grotto meeting at the University of Washington. |
| May 15 | Grotto meeting at the University of Washington. |
| Aug 8-16 | Bighorn Project work session #3. See Bob Brown or Mark Sherman for details. |

MEETING NIGHT CHANGING TO FRIDAY

Starting in January the Cascade Grotto meetings will be held on Friday nights for six months to see how it works out. The meeting night will revert to Tuesdays beginning in July unless a change to the bylaws is voted.

The new night of the week should make it easier for out-of-town members to attend and allow more time for programs or socializing after the meetings. If this is a better night for those of you who haven't been attending regularly, lets see you at the next meeting!

Remember that this starts in January. The November and December meetings will still be on Tuesday nights.

OCTOBER GROTTO MEETING

The first discussion of the night, due to the recent accident on Vancouver Island, was safety and cave rescue. Jim Harp and Gerald Thompson presented a list of recommendations that they feel the grotto should adopt. Al Lundberg made a motion that he be authorized to purchase a copy of the NCRC manual. Jim also mentioned that he has arranged access to a fire station practice tower so if anyone would like to practice their vertical techniques, give him a call at 745-1010.

Al Lundberg's treasury report put the grotto account at \$113.50.

Bob Brown moved that the grotto meeting nights be changed to Friday for a six-month trial period (see notice above). The motion passed and Bob will contact all NSS members in Washington to let them know of the change.

Nominations for grotto officers was held and the results were:

Chairman: Jim Harp
Dan McFeely
Vice Chair: Dick Garnet
Jeff Forbes
Mark Sherman
Sec/Treas: Al Lundberg
Larry Mctigue
Regional rep: Ben Tompkins

The program for the night was a new Bighorn Cavern slide show presented by Bob Brown.

NOVEMBER GROTTO MEETING

Bob Brown presented a list of amendments which he wants to submit to the Congress of Grottos coming up. These amendments deal with limiting the number of consecutive terms a member of the NSS Board of Governors could serve and with making the BOG more responsive to the NSS membership. After some discussion, these amendments were approved for submission by a vote of all NSS members present.

It was announced that Bill Halliday will be having a book sale at his home on December 20-21. He would appreciate some help on Friday, December 19, in setting everything up. Those that help get first crack at the books.

Don't forget that January's meeting will be on Friday the 16th.

On the following day, January 17, there will be a meeting to discuss what the grotto should do in regards to safety and rescue. The location will be decided at the December meeting. For details call Jim Harp at 745-1010, Mark Sherman at 524-8780, or come to the December meeting.

The first program of the evening was presented by Larry Rollins, who recently moved here from California. He had some fantastic pictures of caves in the Guadalupe as well as the in the Motherlode area and Marble Mountains in California.

Jeff Forbes finished off the meeting with slides of Vancouver Island.

GLORY `OLE, VANCOUVER ISLAND

Jeff Forbes

August 24, 1986

Personnel: Dave Black, Jeff Forbes



Getting to and from this cave can be a major part of the total caving experience. This was certainly the case for our trip to Glory `Ole, near Port McNeill. When my old caving buddy Dave Black arrived from Indiana, we set out to do some classic "north Island" caves before heading over to the Vancouver Island Speleofest. This was Dave's first trip to Vancouver Island, and he was immediately impressed by the rugged terrain and glorious scenery. An impression of a different sort was made by the appalling timber clear-cuts.

After quick trips to Vanishing River and Reappearing River Caves, we made our way up

the rocky road toward Glory `Ole on a bright sunny day. Driving through the slash of a huge logged-off area, I felt a tinge of guilt in utilizing the former logging road. Were we, in some convoluted way, contributing to the destruction of the forests "for recreational purposes"?

A loud banging noise under the truck called me back to undivided attention. I reassured Dave that the bumpy ride had simply jarred loose the muffler. Rather than waste time fixing it, I decided to tie up the dangling muffler, out of harm's way. This done, we continued, but soon a large rock caught the loose muffler, wrenching it back sharply under the vehicle and taking a rear tire out in the process. Unlike mufflers, tires are "critical items". A veteran four-wheel caver, Dave probably found all of this quite humorous, though he didn't dare let on. I was determined not to let a few minor vehicle problems spoil a good caving trip. Changing the tire on the steep "road" proved interesting, but eventually we were on our way with no further adjustments.

The entrance to Glory `Ole cannot be adequately described to one who hasn't been there. Words like "awesome" and "incredible" don't really do it justice. It consists of a giant sinkhole 200 feet in diameter and 150 feet deep, surrounded by verdant first growth timber. A small metal survey plaque left by the logging company engineers said simply "Wow!". I could imagine the excitement of Vancouver caver Tich Morris, formerly of Britain, who originally happened upon it while returning from nearby Arch Cave. Word has it that Tich stumbled into camp in the wee hours of the morning after a hike of some 20 miles, raving about the discovery of "me great glory `ole". Dave and I had brought along 5 ropes of varying lengths, but we knew this probably wouldn't get us to the bottom. The entrance section involved lots of climbdowns over clean-washed marble. Granite boulders littered the passage, these having washed into the cave from one of the adjacent Island intrusions. Some of the smaller granite cobbles made excellent "grinders" against the softer marble during high water, producing spectacular potholes in the floor. Dave commented that Glory `Ole was reminis-

ent of some of the classic vertical systems he had seen in the Huautla region of southern Mexico. After passing a large room, we finally reached a "safe" passage. (Dave's euphemism for crawlway) But soon the cave began descending again and we encountered the first pitch. This was the driest part of summer, yet many of the drops still sported refreshing waterfalls. At the fifth pitch, a pretty 75 footer, we used our last rope, still two drops shy of the bottom. The trip out was uneventful, but quite pleasing. Each of us set his own pace, essentially caving alone, but within earshot of the other. At the top of each pitch we would meet, coil a rope, exchange a few words. I realized that I had never really liked caving with a crowd. This was my favorite sort of caving.

Flashlight n. : what you carry dead batteries in.

ROBERT W. CARROLL CHECKS IN

Extracts of a letter from
Robert W. Carroll, Jr.

In the Northeast the list of big talus systems remains unchanged since last year but scores of small ones (largest so far being a 180-footer) in Vermont and the Adirondacks. New York's Essex Co. at long last passed the 600 mark to stand at 612 caves with over 90% being talus caves. St. Lawrence Co. stands at 289 and Clinton at 106. About a quarter of St. Lawrence's caves are Precambrian marble while Clinton Co. has a curious combination of mostly talus caves plus 15 limestone caves near Plattsburg and Valcour Island.

The Northeast may be done with its "heyday of big talus systems". Aside from the car vandalism problem keeping me out of many areas, numerous impressive-looking areas that I have examined have yielded mediocre results. Cliff size is no guarantee of big or numerous talus caves.

I have seen the NSS News article on the California talus systems and my second-hand information about the 3,000-foot estimate for

Millerton Lakes looks rather questionable. I would like to see some better numbers but actually, since I have left the NSS, info on talus developments should probably be sent to Dr. Cato O. Holler of North Carolina.

My activities are under great stress and it is possible that my caving efforts will continue to decline. There do exist a handful of NE areas where a 1000-plus-foot talus system may exist unchecked but most of these are very "iffy". Lack of heavy mountain snows in recent winters has halted snow tube investigations since 1984. One of these things appears to be the Northeast's best bet for a system with greater than 100 meters of relief - IF we ever again get snowfall like we had in 1971 or 1978.

The deepest thing I am apt to get into in the years ahead is one or more old iron mines in the eastern Adirondacks. Some abandoned ones reach depths of several hundred to perhaps 3000 feet and at least one appears not to be boarded up or strictly vertical.

Meanwhile, good luck in our efforts, especially any related to talus, tectonic, or snow tube systems.

LITTLE RED RIVER CAVE

Ben Tompkins

The weather had been unseasonably warm and dry for weeks and once again I had managed to let most of the summer escape in non-caving frivolities such as moving to a new house. I had also just fixed up a new helmet and head lamp, repaired my ailing battery charger, and topped off every battery I own. By the time Sue Brenner called looking for caving trips that would fit her rotating schedule, I was a cave trip looking for a place to happen. We found a weekend in common and agreed to try Ole's Cave simply because after all these years I'd just never gotten around to it.

Friday night it started raining. Saturday morning it was still drizzling but then this is Washington so Silas and I headed off to Sue's place. Somewhere between my place and hers I lost the piece of paper with her address on it but I remembered enough

miscellaneous digits to get there anyway. Somewhere between the car and her front door I lost my comb as I was still looking through all 200 pockets for the paper with her apartment number. Then I left my book of cave maps behind in the Hawk's Prairie Inn where we stopped for breakfast.

At Woodland I lost 12 cents per gallon for not filling up in Seattle. About the only thing I didn't lose was a good view of the mountain. We never saw the mountain in the first place. Sue had to take it on faith that there was really a mountain there.

The road to Ole's cave was gated solidly, the fog had set in, and the rain had increased to an industrial strength drizzle. We elected to forego the hike and head for Little Red River.

In spite of the rain, the stream gully down the center of the mudflow was dry. With a marked departure from my usual wandering-in-the-wilderness approach we located the entrance in fairly short order and found it full of sticks and logs which had to be pulled out to get the gate open. This story is getting long of tale and short of body but I will note that a lot of the finger-writing on the walls in the upper tube has been erased by what appears to be more finger marks. Mr. Bunny has not been disturbed and is now flat as the proverbial pancake and the bright white mold that I mentioned in my previous report has migrated to the tips of his hind feet.

For one reason or another I haven't gone to the bottom on the last two or three trips into Little Red River. I had been telling Silas and Sue to watch out for the lake because sometimes the water is so still and clear that you walk right into it before you see it. This time, however, the cave was definitely drier than I had ever seen it and the "river" didn't appear until much lower than usual. We saw red deposits down the dry stream channels long before water began gurgling out of cracks in the tube walls and coming together to form a small rivulet.

As we approached the end the stream disappeared, the ceiling got very low, and the floor turned sandy. We crawled forwards until the ceiling dove into the sand and we were forced to turn back. We were extracting cigarette butts, shreds of chemical light

stick tubes, and other fun stuff from the cracks as we crawled along when we finally realized that this sandy floor used to be the lake that I had been babbling about. I thought briefly about all the raining going on upstairs but couldn't dream up a mechanism through which the lake could instantaneously return to its former level and so proceeded not to worry.

On the way back Sue's lamp suddenly quit. Since it was my equipment and I knew that hers was the least ruggedized rig I immediately assumed that a wire had been broken somewhere and pulled out the little 4-volt system that I carry as a backup.

Farther up, I noticed a significant breeze coming down a lava ramp from the upper left. Since I had never bothered to go up there before I took the opportunity now. It turned a corner and split with one branch turning upwards and getting very small and the other going parallel to the main tube. As Silas was checking out the latter, we heard voices from below. We turned out our lights and debated the merits of jumping out and yelling B00. We opted for a more neighborly approach and chatted for a while with Randy Rose (CC 25:35) and a co-worker.

As we got up to continue our journey Sue plugged her 4-volt head lamp into the 6-volt battery which still hung at her waist and the poor little bulb went out in a blaze of glory too brief to be noticed by any of us. I knew when I put identical plugs on the two systems that this would happen sooner or later. Fortunately the headlight case was jammed full of spare bulbs and we were soon on our way. The problem with the 6-volt system later turned out to be an open bulb even though I had just installed it before the trip.

It was no longer drizzling when we reached the surface. It was raining seriously. The surface of the mudflow was now covered with puddles and a stream was running in the channel as we made tracks for the car.

After shucking our sodden outer layers into garbage bags and running the defrosters furiously to clear the windows we continued west on road 81 primarily because that's the way the car was pointing. Between the Little Red River and the Gremlin mudflows was a stretch of soft road that looked newly graded

and the running water was staying mostly in the ditches or stream channels to either side. At the west edge of the Gremlin Cave mudflow, however, a stream was crossing the road at right angles and exuberantly washing away about a car's length worth of the road. It didn't look much more than a foot deep so I bounced on through reasoning that I could get just as thoroughly stuck trying to turn around on the soft road.

Several miles later we reached paved road again and several seconds after that we knew we had tire troubles. I have no idea how long the left rear tire had been flat but it was the best imitation of shredded wheat that I've seen in my driving career. Being no dummy, I know right where the spare tire is. We unloaded the back of the car onto the road in the rain or onto the middle seat of the station wagon and opened up the spare tire well. Cowering in the center was one of those undersexed excuses for a spare tire. Out it came anyway and since I didn't see the jack anywhere we piled everything back into the car to get it out of the rain. I looked in the wheel well pouches, under the hood, under the front seats and no jack to be found. It must be under the middle seat. Wing everything over into the back and lift the seat. A map of Kansas couldn't hide under there, let alone a car jack. It's got to be in the wheel well and I just didn't see it. Put stuff on all the seats and pile boxes in the road again, lifted up the tire hatch and still no jack. Sue finally found it in the wheel well compartment. I had looked there but hadn't stuck my arm and shoulder in and felt around for things.

We shovelled the disintegrating boxes back into the car and I proceeded to make the repairs there in the middle of the half-a-lane road hunched over the rear tire with the rain sluicing off my raincoat into my underwear and trucks full of elk hunters rumbling by on their way to town.

It never did stop raining but we recovered my notebook from the restaurant in Olympia, sorted out the scrambled gear in an underground parking garage at Sue's place in Seattle, and all things not considered, I think we really did enjoy the trip. Never did find my comb, though.

DONLAN'S CAVE FOUND?

Larry McTigue

On Wednesday, October 29, Rob and Mike Lewis, Brendan Banfield, and Julie Diew located Neelie Creek Cave using directions supplied by Jeff Forbes from Mike Dyas. It was originally discovered by Tim Holland of the Xanadu Grotto in 1978 and mapped in July, 1978, by Holland, Dyas, and Ron McMenimen. They measured it at 175 feet long and 104 feet deep.

Is this the fabled Donlan's Cave sought by Dr. Halliday and others for the last 35 years? This is probably the oldest unsolved cave rumor in the rumor files of the Cascade Grotto. Joseph P. Donlan discovered a cave in 1902 or so and in 1952, Dr. Halliday tried to relocate it with Mr. Donlan's help. Mr. Donlan was unable to recognize any landmarks that lead to his cave and Dr. Halliday noted in passing that there was an abandoned limestone quarry on a different part of the mountain from where they were searching.

So where was the cave was found? That's right! It's near the quarry, which would explain why Mr. Donlan's landmarks might have changed so much.

On Saturday, November 8, Rob Lewis and I returned with Dan McFeely and John Sears to confirm the location of the cave. The 45 minute hike to the cave from the parking lot is hardly more strenuous than the new, easier, 45 minute hike to Windy Creek Cave. On the way up we found an old caving helmet with a lamp bracket on the front and the name "Ken" painted underneath. On the side of the helmet in rather worn off and illegible letters appears to be the name "RAMBLER". We left it on a small tree stump intending to pick it up on the way back but I don't recall if anyone remembered to look for it then. It may still be there.

In a lower part of the cave there is a mysterious humming noise coming from the back of a tight crawlway that Tim Holland called the "Noise Fault". We tried digging it out but we didn't get very far. Rob Lewis crawled back into the fault as far as he

could and noticed an appreciable increase in the volume of the humming sound emanating from the lower regions of the cave.

The source of this strange sound is still unknown. Rob couldn't get any closer to the source but he could see ahead in the crawlway to where a mound of dirt rose from the floor. He couldn't see over the mound but could toss rocks over it. The rocks rolled down a steep slope for what seemed like a considerable distance. I told Rob to toss one more rock so I could time its descent with my watch. It bounded down the hidden slope for more than five seconds before the sound became too faint to distinguish.

If this crawlway can be dug out a little more it will surely lead deeper into more extensive virgin cave and most likely some impressive pits. Also, by pushing past this obstruction we can find the source of that humming noise.

Running water can be heard in a crevice in the wall of the quarry above the cave which suggests another cave at this point. According to Rob, another small fissure cave is located along the bottom of the limestone cliff above Neelie Creek Cave not far from the quarry. The limestone is exposed along the cliff for about 2,500 feet and certainly needs more checking.

BOOKS IN THE GROTTO LIBRARY

Larry McTigue

BOOKS, GENERAL

Adventure is Underground, Dr. W.R. Halliday
Amateur's Guide to Caves and Caving, David R. McClurg

Cave Craft, David Cons

Cave Life, Charles E. Mohr

Caves of Adventure, Haroun Tazieff

Darkness Under the Earth, Norbert Casteret

Depths of the Earth, Dr. W.R. Halliday

Discovery at the Rio Camuy, Russell and Jeanne Gurnee

Exploring America Underground, National Geographic, June 1964

Exploring American Caves, Franklin Folsom

Ghar Parau, David Judson

Life of the Cave, Charles Mohr E. and Thomas L. Poulson

My Caves, Norbert Casteret

Ten Years Under the Earth, Norbert Casteret

The Story of Caves, Dorothy Sterling

PACIFIC NORTHWEST

Limestone Resources of Western Washington, Wilbert R. Danner

Caves of Washington, Dr. William R. Halliday
Guidebook of the 1972 NSS Convention, (at Trout Lake, WA)

Northwest Caving, newsletter, misc. back issues

Photographs, 6 color aerial photos of Windy Creek Cave area

Map, Windy Creek Cave, 5 ft x 3 ft

EXCHANGE PUBLICATIONS, misc. back issues

NSS News, National Speleological Society

NSS Bulletin, National Speleological Society

D.C. Speleograph, D.C. Grotto, Silver Spring, MD.

Inner Mountain News, Salt Lake Grotto, UT

The Carbide Flash, Paha Sapa Grotto, Rapid City, SD

The CIG Newsletter, Central Indiana Grotto, Indianapolis, IN

The Cleve-O-Grotto News, Cleveland Grotto, OH

The Gem Caver, Gem State Grotto, Boise, ID

The Massachusetts Caver, Boston Grotto, MA

The Nittany Grotto News, Penn State Univ.

The Speleograph, Oregon Grotto, OR

The Underground News, Timpanogos Grotto, Provo, UT

The Windy City Speleonews, Windy City Grotto, Chicago, IL

Viceg News, Vancouver Island Cave Exploration Group, B.C. Canada

Thanks go to Alan Lundberg for donating so many of his books to get this all started and also to Jeff Forbes, Jerry Gunsalus, Jerry Thompson, and Bill Halliday for their contributions.

Now that we have a library, let's make use of it. Also think about contributing a book or two so that our library will continue to grow and show an increasing variety of interesting material.

CUMULATIVE INDEX 1985 - 1986

Ben Tompkins

The previous cumulative index appears in the January, 1985 issue of the Cascade Caver and covered the years from 1982 to 1984. I also have a stack of miscellaneous issues from 1976 to 1981 that I'm working on occasionally.

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Ramsey Cave, Skagit County ; 25:37 Jul 86
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Caving Enroute to the Grand Canyon ; 25:35 Jul 86
Caving Increasing in Hawaii ; 24: 5 Jan-Feb 85
Clarification to History of NW Caving ; 25: 8 Jan-Mar 86
Lava Caves of South Italy -1985 ; 25: 4 Jan-Mar 86
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Nashville Speleohistorical Mini-trip ; 25:16 Apr-May 86
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