



SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 1993

VOLUME 12 NUMBER 5



The SAG RAG is published by the Shasta Area Grotto of the National Speleological Society, Grotto meetings are held at different locations the fourth Friday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Meeting locations are announced in the SAG RAG, Membership dues are \$6 dollars per year and include newsletter subscription. Original material not otherwise noted is copyright to the SAG RAG. Such material may be copied with credit given to the author and the SAG RAG. For use outside of the caving community, please seek the permission of the author or editor first. Send material for publication any time to Bighorn Broeckel, 2916 Deer Meadows Road, Yreka, CA 96097. Material intended for the next newsletter is due by the 10th of the even month.

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EDITOR'S NOTES: Ben Sutton is to be complimented on the improved editorial quality that the SAG RAG has recently enjoyed. In particular, he has been responsible for utilization of computer in producing the RAG. However, with this issue we will revert to the Neanderthal method of typewriter and copy machine. Luckily, Dick sends his stuff copy ready and he must have some new computer gadgets. See page 6. It really looks sharp.

This fall Ben has been slightly distracted by a full load of college classes. I'm glad to pinch hit as editor and wish Ben the best in educational endeavor.

Please note the departure from SAG tradition with regard to the dates of both the November and December meetings. The November date is the second Saturday of the month, and the December meeting falls on the first Friday. You better mark it down or risk confusion.

Sorry, there are no new cave maps in this issue. SAG has finished a survey of Popcorn Cave, with a pending follow-up survey in nearby Big Cave. So those maps should be in process soon. We also need to map the cave next to Dogleg? Cave out by Hat Creek ... would you believe "Alien Space Cave"?

So here's to great caving, or at least cave reading!

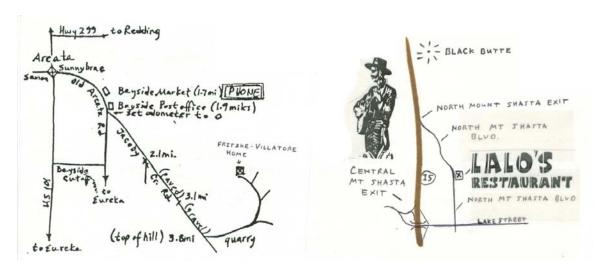
BB

COVER EXPLANATION: Redrawn from artwork submitted by Bruce Rogers from the cover of the Nov. 4, 1980 issue of EOS (Vol. 61, No. 45) Transactions, American Geophysical Union. The following explanation appeared in print. "Eos', the Greek goddess, is identified with Aurora, the Roman Goddess of Dawn. This painting from an ancient Greek vase shows Homer's rosy-fingered goddess, borne on wings of air, dispensing the dew of morning from two large urns."

What does the "KAVE" mean on the right hand urn?

CALENDAR

MAPS TO THE MEETINGS



November 13, 1993

Thanksgiving dinner meeting at the home of Mark Fritzke and Linda Villatore. Linda bakes a great turkey! Bring a side dish to share. Dinner begins at 4 PM. Meeting starts after dinner. ?s? Call (707) 822-8566. Bad news – this is the same map as last yr. Good news – Mark is going to tag the junctions with balloons.

<u>December 3, 1993</u>

Christmas dinner meeting at Lalos Mexican Restaurant in Mt. Shasta. Address: 520 No. Mt. Shasta Blvd. (916) 926-5123 Dinner begins at 6:30 PM with meeting to follow. If we are lucky we can use the banquet room, otherwise we can push tables together. Ray Miller is buying. (Ed. That's a lie.)

MEETING REPORTS

July 10, 1993. Host: Bill McGahey. Representation present from JSG, SAG, and SCS. Good cave talk, and delicious edibles. Jim Kottinger showed aerial photos of an entrance in limestone that we still have not reached, though we tried.

August 20, 1993. Host: Jim Wolff. Present: Jim & Liz W, Bill B, Melanie J, Bill K, Neils S, Jim & Bea K, Dave & Ellen P, & Bob Hammond, District Ranger for STNF, McCloud District. Extended question and answer session with Bob, with a good opportunity here to cooperate with the NF on behalf of the caves. Interested? Liz has detailed notes from this talk. Special Use Permit appl. for cave registers almost ready. Jim & Liz going to Cave Mgmt meetings in NM (Fritzke also went) More opportunity in Siskiyou, Rogue R, and Lassen NFs.

September 10, 1993. Host: Ben Sutton. Present: Ben, Esther, and Camellia S, Neils S, George & Dorothy R, Bill B, Jim & Liz W, Jim K. Discussed RAG, T-shirts, NSS AV dept, <u>Speleograph</u>, special use permit, Marbles rescue, & trip to Popcorn Cave.

October 15, 1993. Hostess: Melanie Jackson. More popcorn & talk.

MARBLE MOUNTAINS LABOR DAY SPELEOCAMP 1993 – Rescue Practice

Most of the 30 or so cavers present at Marble Valley on Sunday, Sept. 5, chose to participate in a day of cave rescue practice. The great enthusiasm and willingness shown during the practice activity revealed the true hearts of the cavers. That is to say, the sincere desire was plain to see; to be as prepared as possible to take care of each other in the event of an injury, accident, or illness in the Marbles.

This grew from a collective realization about the high level of commitment and responsibility assumed by anyone "going caving" in the Marble Mountains. The program was prepared by cavers for cavers. It was intended to impart information, exposure to rescue ideas, and a bit of experience, without providing any officially sanctioned status or certification upon the participants.

In some ways the day represented a culmination of lots of talk and concern about Marble Mountain cave rescue. At the same time, it was the beginning, because there is still much work to be done, and problems to be solved in this area.

In short, it was a real eye-opener.

We used the better part of a day working on a three part program entirely on the surface at or near the camp in Marble Valley. First was presented an informal session of orientation, lecture, and open discussion, also including some medical considerations. Then we broke up into two groups for training in specific skills: vertical haul systems and litter bearing. Teamwork was emphasized in both areas. After a lunch break, the two groups switched places, so everyone had a chance to try everything.

On top of a nearby cliff, Eric Mortenson and Mark Fritzke supervised the vertical rescue set-ups. Good anchors and a peripheral safety rope were demonstrated. Participants set up, used, and took down 2:1 and 3:1 Z haul systems, and took turns as control person, manager of the independent belay line, or member of the haul team. Since the "patients" seemed to have a lot of problems getting hung up on the cliff face, we got to see how the systems can go in reverse.

Meanwhile, Cynthia Ream and Dick LaForge went over the proper use and handling of a litter. The patient would be loaded into the litter with particular care to the head and neck. There were many practical considerations to be worked out in securing the patient. Then the litter would be hauled about over and through various obstacles, both the real and the imaginary. This group roamed and wandered over the landscape like a strange multibrained organism working hard to get coordinated to accomplish an integrated purpose smoothly. This was a real exercise in communication and operating as a team.

Many thanks to those who worked hard to prepare the programs and thanks especially to those who gave the time and attention to participate so wholeheartedly and with the kind and caring spirit so true to the sport of caving.





CAVERS TO THE RESCUE









NEWSLETTER REVIEW OCTOBER 1993

By Dick LaForge

A lot of interesting newsletter articles have arrived in the past few months. Many are too long to reprint or are about specialized topics. If you do want these articles, I'm sure you can get a copy by writing to the appropriate newsletter, sending a SASE of course.

An example of long and specialized, but also very interesting, is <u>The Cave Diver's Guide to Cave Diving</u>, by Bill Klimack, San Francisco Bay Chapter (SFBC) May 93. This isn't really a complete guide – it would take a book to do that – but is a good introduction to what you have to think about as a beginning cave diver and what the experience is like. Effects of depth (pressure), the certification levels, standard practices, a subjective account of a beginning cave dive, and more, are covered. The bottom line – it's expensive and time consuming, and the risk is such that proper training is essential. Word has it that Dave Pryor of Shascade Grotto is getting into Cave diving. Good luck Dave!

Speaking of Shascade Grotto, member John Abacherli scored 1st in the 30 meter mechanical NSS vertical contest in Pendleton this summer. His time was 36.8 seconds. That's running up the rope! Congratulations to John. And speaking again of Shascade Grotto, a number of members have been up to the Marble Mountains this year and have shown interest in various aspects of work there. Dave Pryor is going to head a group documenting the obstacles in cave rescue from specific caves, starting with the Bigfoot entrances. Tony Santa Cruz is interested in cave mapping.

Speaking of rescue, Mark Bowers of Diablo Grotto has been planning Cave Rescue Practices for October through May. These appear to be very well organized and skills learned will be documented on paper to impress your local S&R group. Details in The Devil's Advocate, October 1993, or call Mark Bowers at (209) 544-1819.

Also in the long but interesting category are parts 1 and 2 of Caving in China, by Carol Veselsy, in The Explorer, Sept and Oct 1993 (S Cal Grotto). This is Carol's account of the March 93 expedition. This review reprinted Janet Sowers' account last time, but Carol's is also very interesting. The bottom line – map all day in great large caves, turn around in going virgin passage in time to attend another banquet in the evening. Day after day. A neighbor of mine, physics professor, spent 6 weeks this year in that general area as a teacher of technical English. His expenses while there were paid, but not his travel to and from. His opinion is that Westerners will be invited on these terms as long as they need our expertise, but that their development has been rapid and in 5 or so years they won't. So this might be the "golden age" of working trips to China.

On a personal note, your modest reviewer would like to report gaining a Green ribbon for a print in the 1993 photo salon for a photo from Lechuguilla Cave. Liz Wolff has made a water color based on it.

For any Lechuguilla fans out there, the first year of expeditions under LEARN has been quite successful. By year end there will be 6 expeditions with 20 persons each. Next year there will be 4 expeditions with 30 each. A problem is access for newcomers to the cave, as the Park wants only about 20% first-timers on each expedition. As LEARN now has a membership of almost 300, the odds are not high for a 1st timer being selected. Selection is by lottery. Your reviewer is a LEARN member but has not applied for LEARN trips; he gets into the cave as a member of the Mineral/Geological Inventory Project, which has a separate agreement with the

Park. SAGgers Mark Fritzke, Julie Donovan, and John Bair are also involved with this project.

LEARN has a newsletter which has evolved to quite a few pages and besides Lechuguilla news will have state-of-the art articles on equipment and techniques that would be of interest to any serious caver. I could see people joining LEARN just to get the newsletter. By the way, the cave is at 65+ miles now.

For reprinting this time, I am recommending to the editor two articles. The first is an account of Sewerlunking by members of the Oregon Grotto, from <u>The Speleograph</u>, September 1993. To be honest, in the account it sounds more like StormDrainlunking, but the cover photo clearly shows an enthusiastic Julie Clifford climbing into a round hole the displaced lid of which clearly says "SEWER" in irrefutable cast iron. It's worth remembering that you can lunk in all sorts of places.

The second is "The Guano Stops Here", by John Woods, from The Explorer, May 1993. It gives guidelines for the responsibilities of the leader of a caving trip. Usually the leader (if there is one) knows the members of his team, but if there are newcomers one often assumes they are competent and prepared, while they may not be. This is an especially important consideration in the Marbles, where the conditions are different and more demanding than most cavers are used to. As an example of doing this wrong, some years ago I was leading a trip down and back out of the newly discovered Hanging Rocks entrance of Bigfoot. On the advice of Roger Jones it should have been a 2-3 hour trip. While leaving camp for the cave, three newcomers asked if they could come, so I said "sure", making it a group of six. Well, the trip down the new entrance took maybe 4 hours. It turned out that the newcomers had not brought enough insulation and were getting guite chilled. A bit intimidated by the Very Tight Spot, and thinking it would be just as fast and more interesting to return via the Discovery entrance, we proceeded thither. At the bottom of the entrance drops, one of the newcomers announced that he had no ascending gear, as he expected we would "exit at the cliff entrance". After passing gear and waiting a lot we got out in about 10 hours total, and the three newcomers were nearly hypothermic. To give deserved credit, they remained calm and even enthusiastic throughout. Two were the now-famous Loomis Brothers of Oregon. I can still hear them, coming up the large, well-decorated passage from The Big Room, saying loudly, "I am freezing my ass off! This is beautiful! I've never been so cold! What a great cave! !"

Good Caving,

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From The Speleograph, September 1993, Vol. 29, No. 9, pages 105-106

Kanaka Indian Village Cave Revisited [Sewer-lunking at its Best]

by Patty Silver

Who knows what lurks beneath the streets of Vancouver? The Oregon Grotto knows! For sure, just ask Mary White, Matt Joerin, Kristine McMahon, Larry Purchase, Julie Clifford, Roger and Patty Silver, Roger Cole, Fred Walasavage, Doug and Alisa Koehn, Steve Eckman, Carol Pinkowsky and Paul Wilson.

Yes, on on warm, moonlite evening in August courageous cavers decended into the bowels of Vancouver to explore were no man has ever been before (well, maybe a few simple minded OG cavers about 15 years ago did venture there, but that's another story). The evening's adventure began by seeking out the well hidden?? (you've got to be kidding!) Mill Plain entrance to the cave. This task was easily accomplished by opening the metal gate at just about the busiest intersection in the whole city. The gate opening was witnessed not only by the intrepid cavers, but also by several hundred vehicles who stopped at the intersection signal (including city councilman Royce Pollard), and one C-Tran city bus loaded with passengers. The bus driver was curious enough about all these people with hard hats huddling around the metal entrance that he actually asked about where we were going. There were several replies to his question, the most notable being we were searching for the Ninja Turtles. He laughed, wished us luck, then



Matt Joerin searching for the connection -- any connection Photo by Patty Silver



Steve Eckman in a typical passage of KIV Cave
Photo by Patty Silver

closed the bus door and drove off with a smile on his face that indicated that he must surely have thought we were all escapees from a lunatic asylum.

The contour of the interior of Kanaka Indian Village Cave can best be described as almost entirely cylindrical with very smooth walls. The passage we explored, which ran from Mill Plain Blvd. down to the edge of the Columbia River, was exactly 60 inches in diameter except for a short distance of about 150 feet which was only about 36 inches high and widened out to about 8 feet. It was later discovered that the 36 inch passage was directly under the "City Center Exit" off of Interstate 5. Apparently the cave had been modified when the exit was built.

The cave was fairly dry, execpt for a small stream of clear, cold water that was running down the middle of the cave. It was only a few inches deep, just enough to get your feet thoroughly wet for the entire trip. The trip was planned for a dry day, and we kept an eye open for any signs of rain, as the cave is known to become instantly flooded when any measureable amount of rain falls. The trip began at about 8:00 PM and it was around 10:30 PM when the group exited the cave. The weather was still very warm, but we could see fantastic lightening in the sky just to the north. We knew that the timeing for the trip had been just perfect, the thunder storm didn't start in Vancouver until about midnight, and the cave was undoubtedly flooded by the heavy rain from the storm.

The trip through the cave was a lot of fun. All the voices and laughter echoed for hundreds of feet. There were a lot of side passages, ranging from 48 inches in diameter down to 12 inches, none of these were explored as Mary White had obtained an ancient map of the system and it was clear that all the side passages just got progressively smaller and all ended in grill gated exits to the surface. The cave ended with a barred

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From The Speleograph, (continued)

gate. On the Columia River beach two young fishermen were surprised to hear voices and see cavers peeking out through the bars. The two fisherman were interested enough in our trip that they actually came to the next general meeting.

On the way through the cave several potential new exits to the surface were explored, as no one was terribly excited about having to walk the entire distance through the cold water back to Mill Plain. Some of the possible exits had locked gates, some had gates that were rusted permanently shut, and some exited right into the middle of Interstate 5. You could tell the I-5 exits quite easily by the sound of cars roaring over them. The roaring was very load and echoed for many feet either side of the exits.

The best alternate exit we found was the Ivy exit. It was a short climb up to

the exit, the gate was unlocked, and the exit was right in the middle of the ivy hillside on the City Center freeway exit from I-5. At 10:30 in the evening this is not a heavily used road, so our group didn't attract a lot of attention as we exited the cave, then darted across the freeway exit to head back to Mill Plain Blvd.

We didn't discover very much flora, fauna, or artifacts in the cave. In fact the cave was "clean as a whistle". The only items of interest were two tiny mushrooms trying to grow on the side of the cave, and one motel room key (room #210) which Roger



The gate at the Columbia River entrance of Kanaka Indian Village Cave photo from Julie Clifford

Cole returned to the Fort Motel at the end of the trip. The trip ended in the City Hall parking lot, and it was probably very fortunate for us that we had obtained permission to enter the cave system, as not only had we encountered Royce Pollard at the beginning of the trip, but we also meet City of Vancouver Mayor Bruce Hagenson at the end of the trip. He had just finished some late meetings at the Hall and was interested in hearing all about the cave. Sometimes it pays to jump through all the right hoops and get permission to enter certain caves. Many thanks to Sam for permission, the ancient map and the key to the gate.

NEWSPAPER CLIPPING FROM SISKIYOU DAILY NEWS, OCT. 5, 1993

Old remains found in cave

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Human bones found in a Colorado mountain cave have been dated at 8,000 years old, the oldest ever found above 10,000 feet, an anthropologist said.

"Living and working that high up requires special equipment and skills. Once again, we are realizing that ancient people were a lot smarter and stronger than many people previously thought," said Washington University Professor Patty Jo Watson.

The skeleton was that of a 35- to 40-year-old man who had explored the cave with a torch, Watson said in a university statement. She said the body is twice as old as most Egyptian mummies and almost twice as old as a frozen corpse found in 1991 in the Alps near the border of Austria and Italy.

"It was thought until recently that people from this time period were only passing through by way of the mountain passes," Watson said. "But this new evidence clearly suggests that this man had spent quite a bit of time in the area and clearly knew his way around."

She prepared a report on her finding for presentation Saturday at the First Biennial Rocky Mountain Anthropology conference in Jackson, Wyo.

The skeleton was the subject of a study by a group led by Watson that included archaeologists, speleologists, cave biologists, geologists, physical anthropologists, a forensic radiologist and Forest Service archaeologists.

The location of the cave was not revealed, but officials said the remains were returned to the Southern Ute Tribe because they were found in an area populated by the tribe.

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From The Explorer, May 1993, (reprinted in The Speleograph, Vol. 29, No. 7, pages 84-85)

THE GUANO STOPS HERE

by "Little" John Woods

(Reprinted from The Explorer, May 1993.)

At a recent executive committee meeting a major topic was: Just how much responsibility does a trip leader have, and how should the authority be implemented? More specifically, the discussion centered on the topic of qualifications for vertical caving: How does a trip leader decide who is capable and who is not? The discussion was prompted by several recent incidents that occurred on grotto trips involving insufficient vertical skills. These incidents were caused partially by unfortunate assumptions made by trip leaders and in part by caver misrepresentation. In this case "misrepresentation" means the accidental or deliberate exaggeration of one's personal qualifications for vertical caving. Luckily none of the situations resulted in anything more than minor inconvenience but the possibility of serious injury is always present in any vertical situation.

New cavers assume that if they can somehow get down and up a rope that they are vertically qualified. This is not so! Usually (not always) cavers misrepresent themselves out of ignorance of the dangers. Deliberate deception is not intended but unfortunately the consequences are the same—intentional or not.

A leader must take precautions to insure the safety of the group and this means that some unpopular decisions might be made. This does not imply that the leaser should be dictatorial but the burden of responsibility must ultimately fall on a single informed individual; The basic credo of the leader must be "The guano stops here!" meaning that the leader has the final vote. The does not mean a leader can function alone—no one can. Other members of the party are obligated to support the leader by providing information essential to the group's safety and by accepting various degrees of personal responsibility for the group's welfare.

There are many ways to deal with these situations but they involve the cooperation of the entire caving party. Several suggestions are offered here:

Suggestions for trip leaders:

- Set minimum requirements for vertical competency for all party members. Inform the party of your personal requirements for their participation, and be specific. Simple descent and ascent skills do not prepare cavers for unexpected situations. Performing change-overs, knot crossings, or a simple self-rescue gives many beginners the confidence to do it under stress, because they know they've done it before.
- It is particularly important to inform members when cave topography or the ruling bureaucracy of a cave requires special equipment or skills of any kind. The

- unusual requirements of Cave of the Winding Stair or the possible need for a wetsuit in certain caves are two examples. Less experienced cavers sometimes don't know what questions to ask. Try to anticipate the "unasked" question.
- 3. Check the party member's abilities personally whenever possible. A recommendation from another trusted caver is often sufficient. If doubt remains, insist on some type of demonstration. This should be done privately to avoid embarrassment. New cavers don't know what can happen and may really think they are qualified. Don't assume they are lying.
- 4. Check the personal equipment of group members.
- 5. Don't be afraid to bar an individual from a trip or to limit their activities on the trip in the cases where more than one cave will be visited. A leader's decisions affect everyone on the trip, not just the leader. This is possibly the most difficult thing a trip leader must do, and the most important. If an individual repeatedly makes serious errors or disregards safety procedures it may be necessary to remove them from the cave. Errors or safety infractions should be considered in relation to the dangers they present. Use removal as a lat resort, not because of minor disagreements concerning protocol. Information about specific individuals can be discussed in private and no caver should be humiliated by either the group or the leader. It is essential that cavers be treated with respect and that personal opinions are tempered by remembering that we can all stand some improvement of our abilities.
- 6. If someone asks for instructions or assistance GIVE IT or delegate the responsibility to another competent caver. ASK FOR HELP from the members of the party. Delegating authority distributes the pressure of leadership and allows a greater number of cavers to experience the leadership process.
- 7. LISTEN to the members of the group. Most difficulties are avoidable if you pay attention to the flow of events.

Suggestions for the GROUP:

- 1. ASK QUESTIONS! A good leader will answer them. Don't be afraid to get a second opinion from another competent caver, a good caver won't fear it. Long-time caver Bill Meyer suggests "Never trust your leader," meaning USE YOUR HEAD! Support the decisions of the trip leader but question those decisions if you think they endanger the party. Don't blindly follow orders. BE REASONABLE about the issues. If you argue over every decision a leader makes, you will probably not be invited to go caving very often. A leader without some authority is no leader.
- 2. Everyone is responsible for checking everyone's gear, including rigging. Watch for unlocked carabiners or quick link gates. Be certain that rappell gear is properly attached

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From The Explorer, May 1993, (continued)

to the rope. Watch for loose harness buckles, frayed webbing, etc. Working together reduces the dangers. Be discreet about examining other people's gear. It can usually be done from a distance and unless you see something wrong, no comment is needed. Ask someone to check your equipment when beginning a descent or ascent.

- 3. If you have doubts about another caver, contact the trip leader, before the trip if possible, but do it *privately*. It is the leader's responsibility to deal with this problem. The goal is to make caving safer, not to assassinate someone's character. If you have any doubts about your own ability or equipment, TELL THE TRIP LEADER! It does not indicate incompetence, it is the duty of any responsible caver. Do it *before* you enter the cave.
- 4. If you see an unsafe procedure in the cave, ADDRESS IT IMMEDIATELY! This should be done courteously. Ask the person something like "Why did you do that?" and then listen to their response. Remember there are many ways of solving a problem, often several are safe although different. Disagreements should be arbitrated by the trip leader.
- 5. Safety is a matter of degree. Ask yourself "is it safe enough?" Don't insist on 17 rig backup rig points or quadruple redundancy and justify it saying that it is "safer." Any system can be made safer but some reasonable limit must be set. You want a trip leader not a babysitter.
- 6. On most trips all of the competent cavers will contribute to "leading" and most decisions are something of a group effort. This is to be expected when groups of proficient cavers come together. It may seem that no single individual is leading but usually it means that good decisions are being made by everyone and their is no reason for the leader to "take charge."
- 7. Seemingly simple decisions may have indirect consequences beginners cannot foresee. Coiling a rope a certain way or a recommendation about how to wear a cave pack may be related to safety. Time itself may be a factor—hypothermia problems may result from long delays or fatigue may cause mistakes. If an experienced caver makes a recommendation as modest as "Let's move a little faster!" or "Let's take a break for food," there may be a reason beyond the obvious.

These are suggestions only, there area many possible solutions to the problems of vertical caving. Cavers are notoriously independent people and yet work well together because they care about each other. Leadership may involve difficult decisions and some mistakes will be made. We can only hope to make good choices and accepts responsibility for our own actions.





Board OKs Pluto Cave land trade

GENE SHELEY Daily News Staff Writer

YREKA — The badly-vandalized Pluto Cave may come under the protection and perpetual care of the federal government.

The Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors Tuesday approved a proposed land trade between the owners of the property on which the cave is located and the U.S. Forest Service.

In contrast to a an unrelated recent controversial proposed trade between private property and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, the board quickly approved the issue a thand after an explanation from Klamath National Forest official Harry Frey.

Frey outlined how the the current owners of the property on which the cave is located want to trade more than 800 acres including, and adjacent to, the caves, for a similar total of forest land in two separate parcels.

The cave is located on county road A-12 just west of the junction with state Highway 97. The grotto is a volcanic tube, about one-half mile deep.

It is accessible from A-12 but never has been developed as a tourist attraction. In recent years, graffiti has been painted on the walls and other damage has been done.

Brice Martin owns the property in the area of the cave but hasn't the policing powers to protect the attraction from the periodic damage. Frey indicated that if the trade is consummated, the cave would be developed "for public use" as part of KNF's recreation program, with the damage corrected and the graffiti removed.

Martin's property includes about a full section with an attached zigzag pattern of land running east along both sides of the A-12 alignment. The entire private holdings would be traded for a parcel west of Goosenest and another northeast of Goosenest.

No time frame was announced for the proposed trade. Frey thanked the board for is cooperation and noted some initial concern in appearing before the board in view of the problems a "sister agency" had in another proposed trade.

The circumstances in the previous proposal, finally rejected by the board, involved a four-party land trade but the board saw no public benefit in that proposal.

SAG RAG

524 Annie Street Yreka CA 96097 **STAMP**



TO: