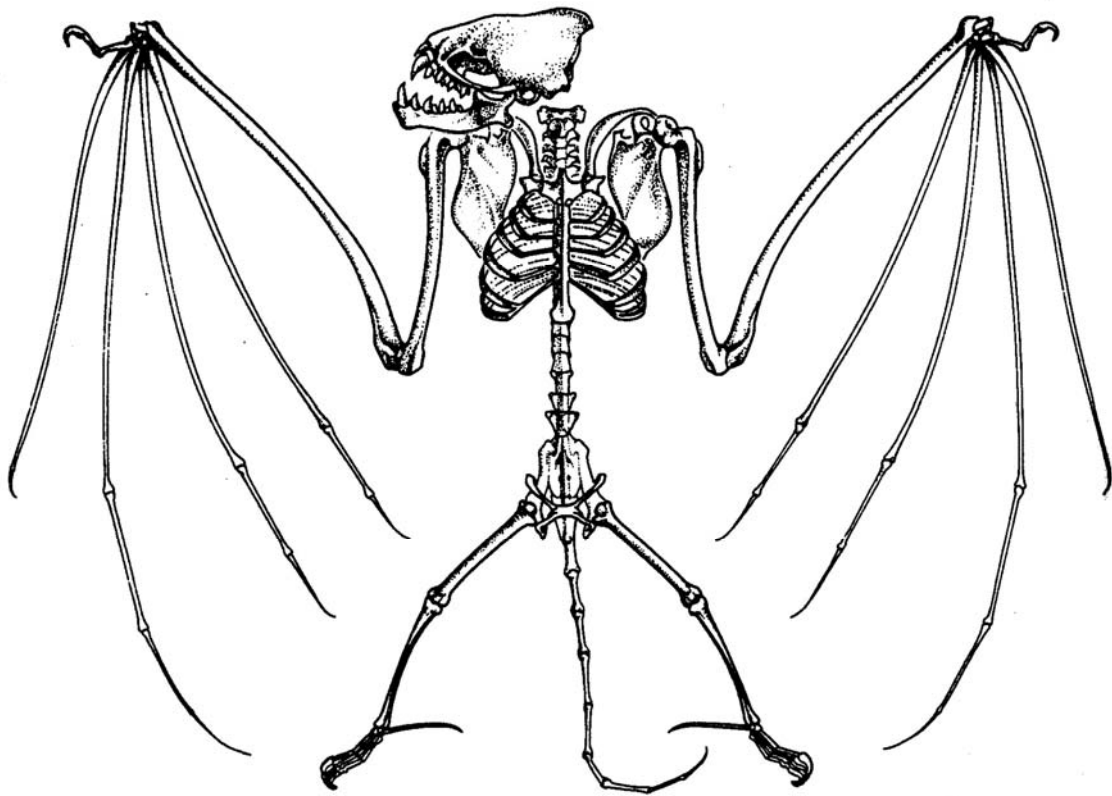


SAG RAG

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 1994

VOLUME 13 NUMBER 5



INSIDE

Page 2	Editorial and cover explanation
Page 3	Grotto business and calendar
Page 4	Obituary: Claude Smith By Jim & Liz Wolff
Pages 5-6	Bat Folklore By Ray Miller
Page 7	Bat Bible Study By Bill Broeckel
Page 8	Big Cave By Liz Wolff
Page 9	Big Cave map By Liz Wolff
Page 10	Pancake Cave and map By Bill Broeckel
Page 11	Wild Cave Chase From Jim Wolff

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.

EDITORIAL: With a sense of loss and sorrow, this SAG RAG contains Claude Smith's obituary. Claude had a lot of digging projects he was quietly working on in the Marbles. Once I thought I had found a fresh collapse. It turned out to be one of Claude's digs. He was unique among the cavers, for his reserve, his tenacity, and his preference to work alone or with his sons. He was legendary for his work on Apogee Cave. He worked on Apogee for years until it at last opened up. His love for these caves was obvious. Claude will be missed, and his loss reminds us of the great human value of each caver.

On another sobering note, I have a sensational bat story. It is sensational in the tabloid sense of the word, but I'm writing it because I know the whole thing is true. A Siskiyou County child with a neurological impairment was sleeping in his bed at home when his parents were horrified to find a bat attached to his neck. This is really true. How the bat entered the room is not known. He was treated at the E.R. and the bite marks were clearly documented. The parents had the presence of mind to actually capture the bat. They used a blanket. The bat was sent to a state lab for study. Within 24 hours, the lab reported on the bat brain biopsy. It was positive for Rabies virus. In fact, it was the most positive specimen they had ever seen. With the inoculation so close to the child's brain, the situation was particularly critical. The patient was immediately given both passive and active immunization. The passive was in the form of a dose of RIG - Rabies immunoglobulin. The active came as the first in a series of five Rabies vaccine shots, which are now given in the arm much like any other immunization shot.

To date, the child seems to have suffered no severe effects from the bat bite. Of course the parents have been shaken by the episode, but have managed quite well and have been responsible with the follow-up. This is a very unusual story. I agree that bats need all the help they can get from human friends, but at the same time we need to be aware of the potential problems with rabies.

I hope we are not contributing to Halloween madness by featuring bats at this time. It just happened that way, especially with Dick LaForge getting a "bye" for this issue. We thought that the bat Bible study and the Ray Miller bat folklore article would be the most appropriate.

Also we have some more lava tubes to show. SAG completes something here with the publication of Big Cave. Nearby Popcorn Cave was printed about a year ago. Liz Wolff now has a map that shows both Big and Popcorn Caves and how they relate. Ask Liz to show it to you some time. It is a fine piece of work and fun to speculate on.

Last of all, Jim Wolff submits the wild cave chase, drawn from an old newspaper article. After you locate and prepare this puppy, give me a call, and I will be glad to help with the scooping process. It probably opens up into something really big ...

Cover: The bat skeleton was taken from page 22 of the book Bats – A Natural History, by Hill & Smith, published by the University of Texas Press and printed in England 1984.

CALENDAR

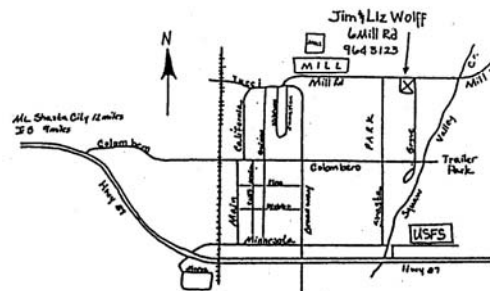
- November 12, 1994 Saturday Grotto meeting at the Mark Fritzke Linda Villatore home in Arcata, California.
- December 9, 1994 Friday night 7:30 PM Grotto meeting at the Home of Jim and Liz Wolff in McCloud, Calif.
- December 14, 1994 Deadline for nominating significant caves for the Dept. of Agriculture (USFS).

Meetings

November meeting on 11/12/94 at Fritzke Villatore home in Arcata. Meeting at 7:30PM, but come earlier for the big Thanksgiving FEAST! Linda is doing a TURKEY, the rest is potluck. Bring two of the following: side dish, salad, bread, dessert, or beverage. Arcata meetings are great!

December meeting at Wolffs at 7:30 PM. Be there or be elected. Snow is a possibility. Call for conditions.

McCLOUD, CALIF. →



October Meeting Report By Jim Wolff

The "grotto meeting" at the Marbles was poorly attended – and understandably so! It snowed on the three of us! Jennifer Gould (SOG), Bill Kenney and J. Wolff were there. Everyone else in the valley caving through the week previous got out before the weather soured even more. By the time we got there, all the cavers remaining were Mark Fritzke, Willy Ondericek, and "James" (SOG). And they left the valley in our snowstorm, just before midnight after spending five hours in Brokedown Palace Cave. Jennifer, Bill, and I toured Upstairs Downstairs Cave, noting several dozen groups of moths and a singular bat.

SHASTA AREA GROTTO FOUNDER DIES AT AGE 45 – CLAUDE SMITH

Claude Allen Smith, NSS 11980, was born August 3, 1949 in Kirkwood, Washington. He was found dead at his Ono, California home on Wednesday, October 12, 1994. He is survived by his wife Mary Belle, sons Riley and Patrick, his parents, a brother and a sister.

Claude worked for the Redding school district as a computer programmer. He served on the Igo-Ono school board, and as assistant fire chief of the Igo-Ono fire department. He enjoyed bowling as well.

Claude was the Shasta Area Grotto's founder and first chairman. He held several offices during his years with the grotto and was the first editor of the SAG RAG. Before coming to northern California, he caved with the Cascade Grotto in Seattle, Washington, worked at Carlsbad Caverns, and later lived, worked, and caved in the Sacramento area.

Caving was his foremost outdoor activity; he took his boys caving and on many cave hunting trips. Claude was known to be a digger, and was noted for his sometimes solo efforts on digs in the Marble Mountains, while other people sat around camp or caved. He worked on digs that had good potential, and stuck with them, even when it took years to produce anything! He is credited with opening up the key passage leading to the majority of Apogee Cave in the Marbles. Liquid Drains Cave was recently discovered by Claude and his son Patrick. Melvin Cave (near Redding) is another dig that he worked on that led to cave.

Claude was a unique sort of guy. He will be remembered for his dry wit and barely perceptible laugh. He always seemed the serious one of the grotto. Above all, he was THE DIGGINGest CAVER BAR NONE! He will be missed for a long time to come. May God rest his soul.

Jim and Liz Wolff



All About Bats

FOLKLORE

Bats are often looked upon as mystical creatures to be feared. This attitude probably came into our culture when our distant ancestors got nighttime glimpses of bats that foraged near their fires and then disappeared into the deep recesses of caves. To justify their fears, stories were concocted making bats messengers from the underworld, evil spirits, carriers of disease and bad luck and a host of other ominous attributes.

In Asian countries bats are a sign of good fortune. China has at least 5 different symbols for bat, and the next time you are in a Chinese restaurant check for bats in the artwork. The bats are usually drawn in red - the color of joy.

Great Britain has passed laws to protect all bats – even those roosting in buildings. Other European countries are moving in the same direction. The realization is growing that bats are not only a part of our natural heritage, but also a valuable ally in our war on insects.

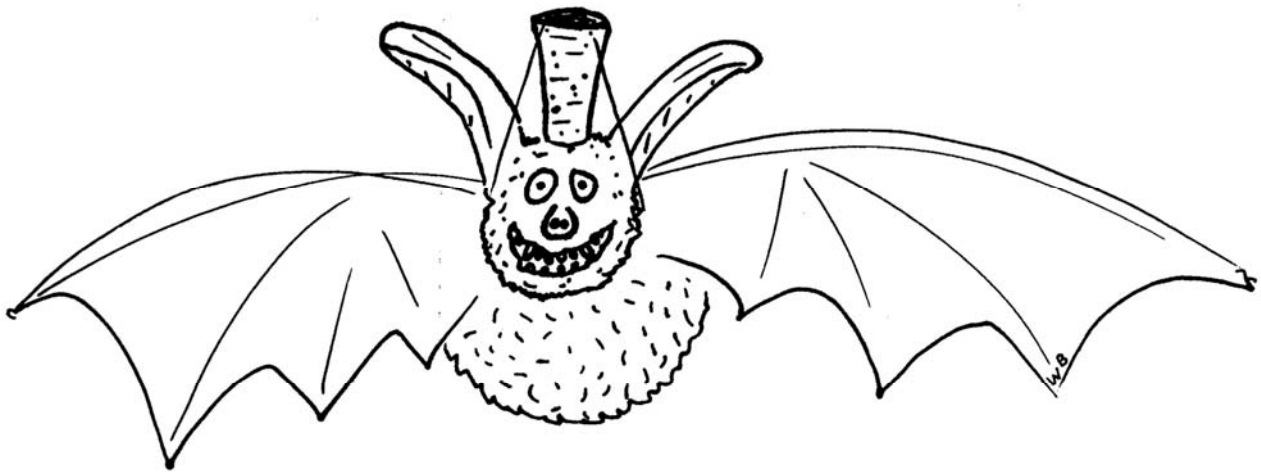
Bats tangle in people's hair. Everyone knows someone who had a relative, usually long dead, who had a bat tangle in their hair. Bats are very curious animals, and they will often come near to see what is going on. Also, bats eat insects, and people are a great mosquito attractant. But crash into someone's hair? They can find a mosquito by starlight, so they will certainly avoid a human head.

Bats carry rabies. Like all mammals, bats can contract rabies, but they do not carry the virus in a dormant state. Rabies develops in most bats as a progressive paralysis that starts with the hind legs, and the victim never goes berserk. Rabid bat bites occur when good Samaritans attempt to pick the animals up. About 10% of all bats submitted for testing are rabid, but the only ones submitted are those found sick. Any animal that does not behave normally should be avoided, be it a bat, skunk or a domestic animal.

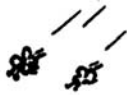
Bat droppings carry (Insert the medical hazard of your choice). Bat urine and guano are often smelly, but tuberculosis, flu etc., are not contracted from bat guano. Histoplasmosis, a fungus infection of the lungs, comes from bat roosts, chicken coops and bird roosts, however it is only found in the mid-west and eastern states.

Bats will suck the blood out of you. There are about 900 species of bats, and of these only 3 feed on blood. None of these species pose a danger to humans, and none occur in our area. Refer to other information on Vampires.

Bats have no eyes. All bats can see, and some depend solely on their vision to navigate and hunt. Their eyes are generally small and adapted for use in dim light. When confronted by a bright light they will squint or close their eyes. This gives casual observers the impression that bats are eyeless.



CORKED BAT



- SAY HORACE. LETS BUG OUT TO THE BALLPARK.
- GOOD THINKING , HE WONT BE ALLOWED THERE .

BATS IN THE BIBLE by Bill Broeckel

Bats are mentioned in the Bible not once, not twice, but three times. All the bat texts are found in the Old Testament. The first one is Leviticus 11:13-19. "And these you shall have in abomination among the birds, they shall not be eaten, ... The eagle, the vulture, the osprey, the kite, the falcon according to its kind, every raven according to its kind, the ostrich, the nighthawk, the sea gull, the hawk according to its kind, the owl, the cormorant, the ibis, the water hen, the pelican, the carrion vulture, the stork, the heron according to its kind, the hoopoe, and the bat."

Here we find that bats are deemed unfit as food for the ancient Jews. Remember that "unclean" did not necessarily mean that bats themselves were bad or evil, only that the people were not supposed to eat them. In fact, a modern interpretation of this might say that the unclean list actually sets aside some animals as protected by law, a prototype Endangered Species Act.

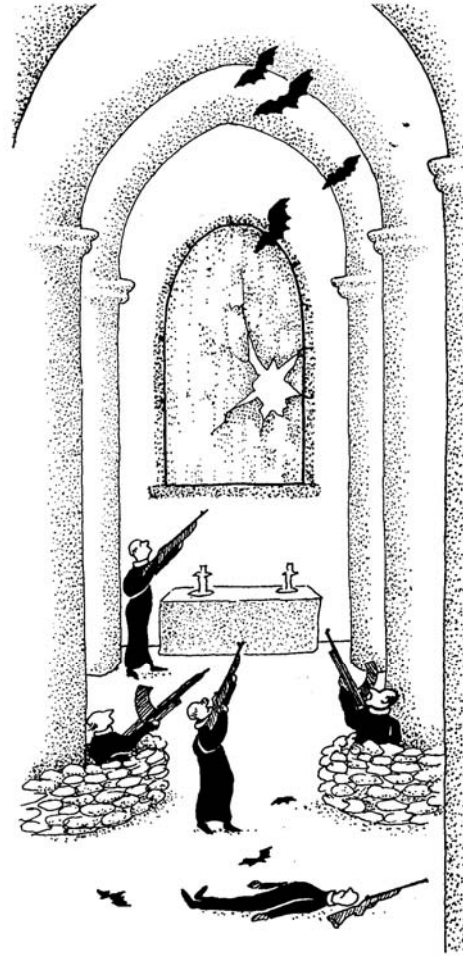
Of course the interesting thing here is that bats were included in a list of birds. Any bonehead student of zoology can tell you that bats are mammals, and have no business roosting in a list of birds. But remember that the Old Testament was written long before Carolus Linnaeus devised his now famous system of nomenclature. Moses classifies according to function as opposed to phylogeny.

The second text is much like the first. Look up Deuteronomy 14:11-20.

The third one is Isaiah 2:19-21. The prophet is confronting his nation calling for reform, and warning about God's impending judgment. The killer Babylonians are on the horizon. Caving is portrayed as an act of desperation that people are driven to out of terror. These cavers are attempting to avoid captivity, but also feel convicted of sin and are hiding from God. They toss their costly idols to the moles and bats because these idols are of no use to them. Bats and moles are given here as lowly creatures of the earth. It is interesting that Isaiah associates bats with caves. Check it out for yourself.

So there you have it. The Bible lists bats with birds, deems them unsuitable as a Jewish food source, and places them with moles inside the earth. Popular Halloween culture gives bats a bad rap, but these negative ideas clearly are not derived from the Bible. God keeps His eye on the sparrow, and I suspect that He keeps His eye on the bats as well.

Question: On what day of creation did God make bats?



Vicars 3, Bats I

BIG CAVE

By Liz Wolff

It was a beautiful fall day that Big and Popcorn Caves were found by SAG members. A SAG cave trip soon had Popcorn Cave surveyed, and the map published in the Nov-Dec 1993 SAG RAG. We had located the Big Cave entrance and found it large indeed, although we didn't enter then as a handline was needed and we didn't have one with us.

July 9, 1994 we returned with cable ladder and handline for the assault on the unknown. Melanie Jackson and Liz Wolff surveyed from Popcorn to Big Cave with the temperatures approaching 100° even around 10 AM. Jim Wolff and Neils Smith were rigging the entrance drops while the survey went on.

We had soon surveyed into the entrance and found a small hole on the east side of the sink leading into large passage via an overhung 20 foot drop of smooth remelt lava. An obvious passage, breakdown floored, headed west, but the hole on the east intrigued us. Scouting around we found a tiny hole leading down through breakdown over ledges and into the passage at the bottom of the 20 foot drop.

We began to hear voices other than our own and before long a local man and his friend joined us to chat and exchange names and info. Pat Burns lives in MacArthur, likes bats and has bats living on the cliffs behind his house. He told us of a large colony of bats living in the cave near some small skylights.

Continuing the survey we found the domes and skylights, complete with bats, as Pat had told us. From the dome area the cave climbed steeply to a room that terminated in breakdown. There were roots and some dirt on the floor of the terminal room.

Then we tackled the west passage. It is huge, 40' high and 30' wide, and breakdown floored, as is almost the entire cave. We came to what appeared to be the end, disappointingly soon, in a mountain of breakdown. Poking into holes soon found a way down and another seeming end. More poking brought us through a contortionists squeeze into walking passage without breakdown!

It was too good to last, & it was back to crawling over the breakdown and breakdown ledges, into breakdown rooms, and into a room, finally, without breakdown, but with a very low and rough crawl leading on to the west. We didn't push it, as Neils didn't make it through the contortionists squeeze and we had been gone a long time. This last room was wet, while most of the cave had been dry.

On the return trip we found a bat skeleton in the breakdown (where else?), but so soft that we couldn't collect it for our own batman, Ray Miller's enjoyment. We did, however, collect a lot of cans, bottles, broken glass, candy wrappers, and dead batteries in an attempt to beautify the cave even a little, and make it a little safer place to visit.

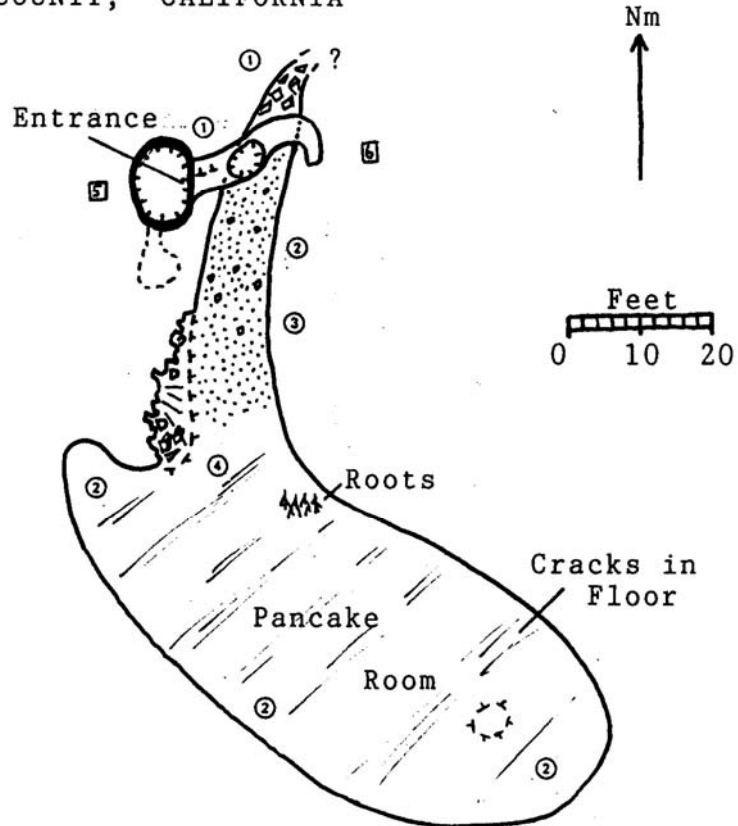
Homeward bound we were famished, having gotten out of the cave near dusk (9 PM?) and hit the old hotel's restaurant in Fall River Mills to have a delicious dinner in the dining room, while a local cowboy entertained the sparse crowd with guitar and song.

PANCAKE CAVE

SHASTA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

SISTECOS & TAPE
SURVEY 8/13/94
BROECKEL FAMILY
LENGTH - 158 Ft
DEPTH - 12 Ft

○
Landmark Tree "C"



Map: Pancake Cave

PANCAKE CAVE by B. Broeckel

Acting on a lead from USFS Officer Jim Barnhart, we first located the entrance to Pancake Cave on 3/20/93. Over a year later, we returned to survey the cave on a hot day in August, 1994. Even though the walk to the cave was a short one, it was almost all we could do because of the heat. The coolness of the cave was most welcome. Once again, this small Hat Creek surface tube has shown a great variation in moisture content. It was almost completely dry in August.

The entrance is found in the east side of a small sinkhole located 75' northeast of the landmark tree. With brush hiding a tiny, jagged entrance, this cave has been rarely visited, if at all. A hole in the floor of the crawlway drops down to a crossing lava tube with a soft floor. This passage soon opens into the Pancake Room. This room measures 80 feet in length, and the maximum height is 4 feet. The room appears to be an undrained lava pool, and the floor is very level, but cracked by the shrinkage of cooling.

WILD CAVE CHASE Cave lead from Jim Wolff

from: Mt. Shasta Herald, Thurs. Nov. 7, 1935

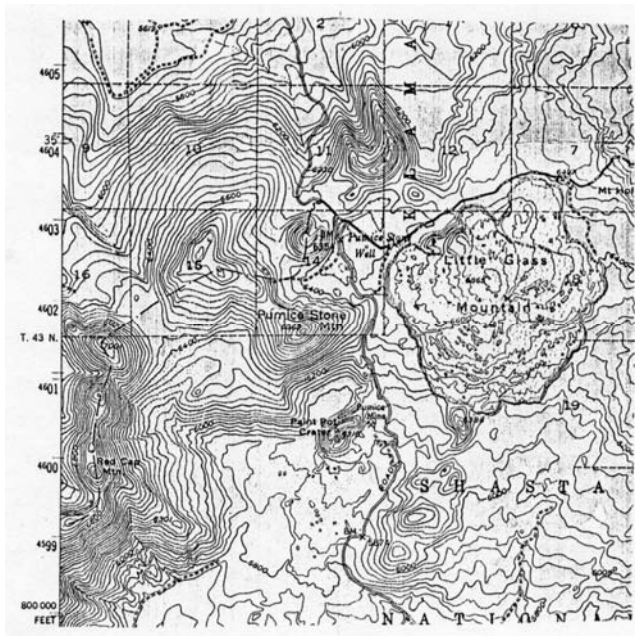
FOREST SERVICE TRUCK MEN FIND CAVE UNDERNEATH ROAD

Several forest service men had a strange experience recently as they drove heavily loaded trucks along a mountain road through the lava bed country near Medicine Lake, located northeast of McCloud. The region is noted for its strange cave formations and mysterious underground streams. It seems that George Bryson of McCloud was driving the lead truck, loaded with lumber, followed by a similar vehicle on which was resting a large caterpillar tractor.

All went well until the trucks reached a spot about two and a half miles from Pumice Stone Mountain, when the road service suddenly gave way under the back wheel of the first truck. When the driver stopped his truck to see what had made the truck sink down, he was amazed to see a yawning abyss about four feet wide and apparently bottomless. Meanwhile, Bryson stopped his vehicle and went back to see what the trouble was.

Forest Ranger Earl Sullaway of McCloud arrived on the scene shortly afterwards. He went down into the cave about twenty feet but could not see the bottom.

It took three men more than half a day to barricade the opening and repair the gap in the road so the return trip to McCloud could be made. – Dunsmuir News.



The map shows a portion of the Medicine Lake 15" topo 1952, with 3 possible roads.

Jim Wolff writes, "I found a 1936 map that shows all the roads at that time in the area of our search. So with some effort we were able to trace and walk some of those roads that day (9/16/94 with Liz and Ray). We have at least one other area that could have a buried lava flow."

Calling all cave hunters, let's start checking out those road repairs.

Only Two Fingers?



FRITZKE ALPINE BOX
Redefining the State of the Art

Press spring and swing gate open with just two fingers, even with your weight on roller!

Only one finger is needed to lock gate with a "Click!"

Superior Features:

- **Comfort**—8" wide chest plate
- **Low profile**—slides over snags
- **Lightweight**—10.4 ozs.
- **Precision machined**—stainless steel and anodized aluminum
- **Engraved Serial Number**
- **Self-lubricating rollers**

\$105
Optional Harness \$22
(yellow, blue, black)
Shipping/Handling \$5
CA residents please add tax

ALPINE ASCENT
P.O. Box 4836 Arcata, CA 95521
(707) 822-8566 or FAX (707) 822-4454



Editor emerging from Pancake Cave with a grimace. Mini caves for mini people. Photo by Judy Broeckel

SAG RAG
524 Annie Street
Yreka CA 96097

STAMP

TO:

