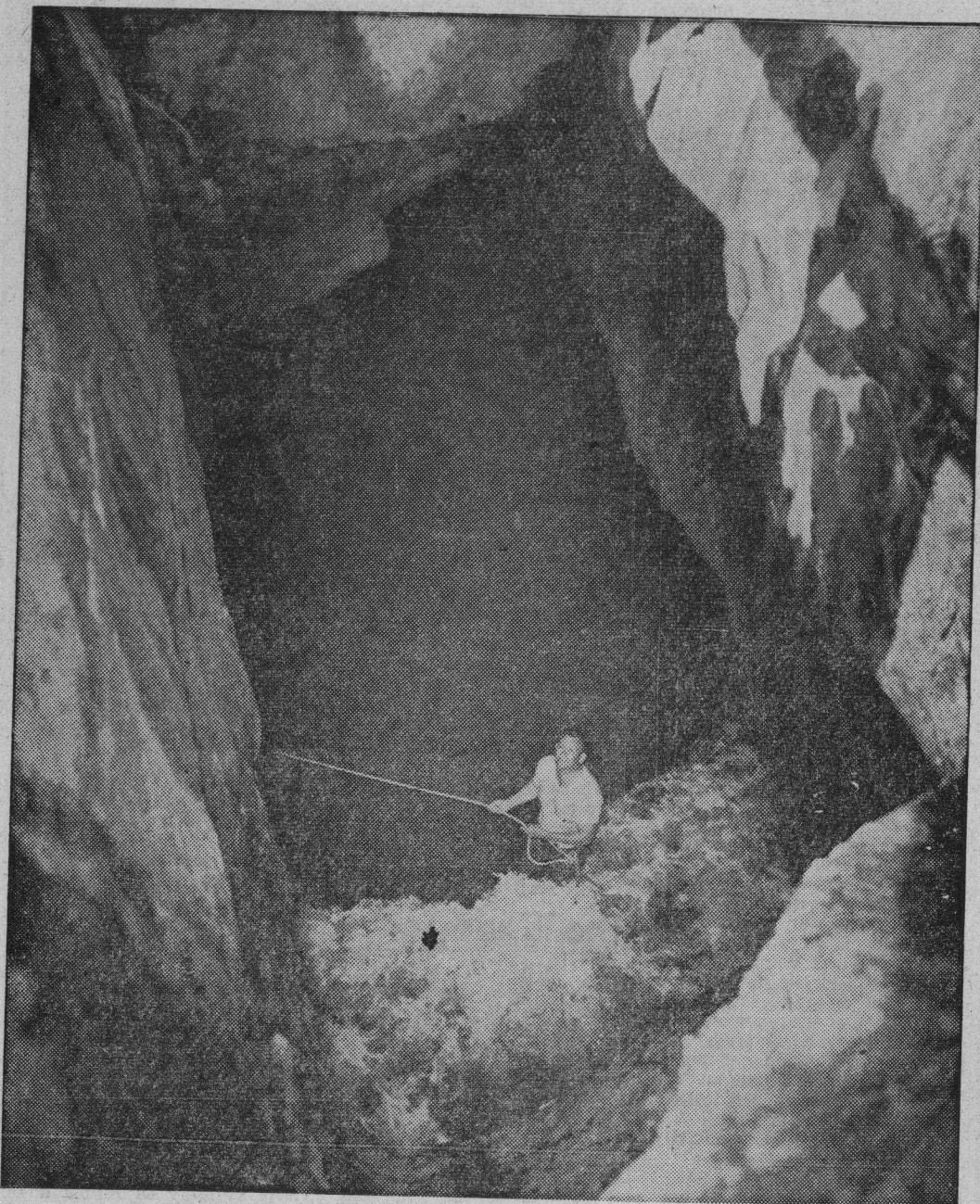


# Wave-Boosted Erosion Bites At West Cliff Drive

Just After A Big Breaker



Hang Onto That Rope!



Assistant Street Superintendent Loren Scofield recovers his footing after being tumbled by a big wave as he investigated a cave in West Cliff. Scofield was probing the depths of the cave which ran some 50 to 60 feet further into the bluff when he lost his powerful battery-powered light as well as his footing. He reported that apparently there was no new danger to property since the last investigation four years ago.

'Youth Survey' To Be Presented At

## Street Department Makes New Check Of Big Cavern

By John Wheeler

The harshly pocked faces of Santa Cruz' cliffs show the deep ravages caused by one of Nature's worst plagues against the earth.

The erosion of untold centuries of booming surf and driving rainstorms have resulted in one of the toughest cases city officials have been called on to prescribe for.

Yesterday afternoon two members of the city street department carefully inched down a chain ladder and dropped into the chest-high water to probe the danger of one of the worst caverns along West Cliff drive.

In the softer rock along the city's most scenic route near Woodrow avenue, erosion has stabbed through a deep cave into the cliff, and provided the famous blowhole which once shaped water for a 20-foot shot into the air. The blowhole provides a hazard to fishermen, inquisitive children and unwary pets.

But the danger of the cave is to the street above it and the residential property beyond.

Assistant Street Superintendent Loren Scofield was first to start down the ladder over the lip of the hole which opens at the roof of one cavern. Alternately swaying in space and pushing away from slimy walls, Scofield reached the bottom and dropped into the water.

His partner, Jack Legner, 24, a department workman, followed to provide an anchor at the bottom of the ladder for the rope tied to Scofield's waist.

Where Scofield went, the rope would go. If Scofield went under or ran into bad trouble, the rope was supposed to get him back.

In 25 minutes of fighting the surf which set up currents to tear at legs from every point on the compass, Scofield flashed a powerful light over the walls of the cave and tried to probe the depths of the cavern beyond.

Although the tide was at an official minus .5 feet, breakers still rolled into the cave, causing a dull boom when they hit the wall and no end of trouble to stocky, heavy-armed Scofield.

After one fleeting glance at the cave which was found to stretch 50-60 feet somewhat beyond, the waves finally rolled Scofield over, caused him to lose the light and ended the exploration.

The end of the adventure came none too soon for Scofield's and Legner's bosses, City Manager Pete Tedesco and Street Super-

ing by excavation failed to show any new cavern near the surface adjacent to the street, and the street men tended to write the problem off as a small fissure which, for the time being, would not herald any bad problems.

Old-time residents of Santa Cruz are only too well aware of what the long range problem is. They point to the present shape of East Cliff drive, where erosion has chopped into so many lengths of macaroni a once busy thoroughfare.

The city and county have received \$516,000 congressional authorization for a \$1.5 million beach erosion control project to stretch from Natural Bridges state park to Capitola. However, assuming that congressional appropriations are forthcoming in the next few years, the problem of setting up the local cash contributions are terrific politically.

Citizens, who are ready to agree to the need of flood control and urban redevelopment, tend to balk when asked to consider an immediate attack on the erosion problem.

"Sure, but we've got to get these other things paid for first," many say.

City Manager Tedesco and his predecessor, Robert Klein, sketched the alternative to a far-reaching and adequate erosion control project and one that will start soon.

In discussions with city council, the managers have repeatedly talked of eventually losing large sections of West Cliff drive and some of the private property behind it if the waves continue to be allowed to have their way.

## Yo-Yo Finals Set For February 14

Winners of the yo-yo competition at various Santa Cruz city recreation department playgrounds were announced recently by Mrs. Lorraine Kolbe, women's and girls' supervisor.

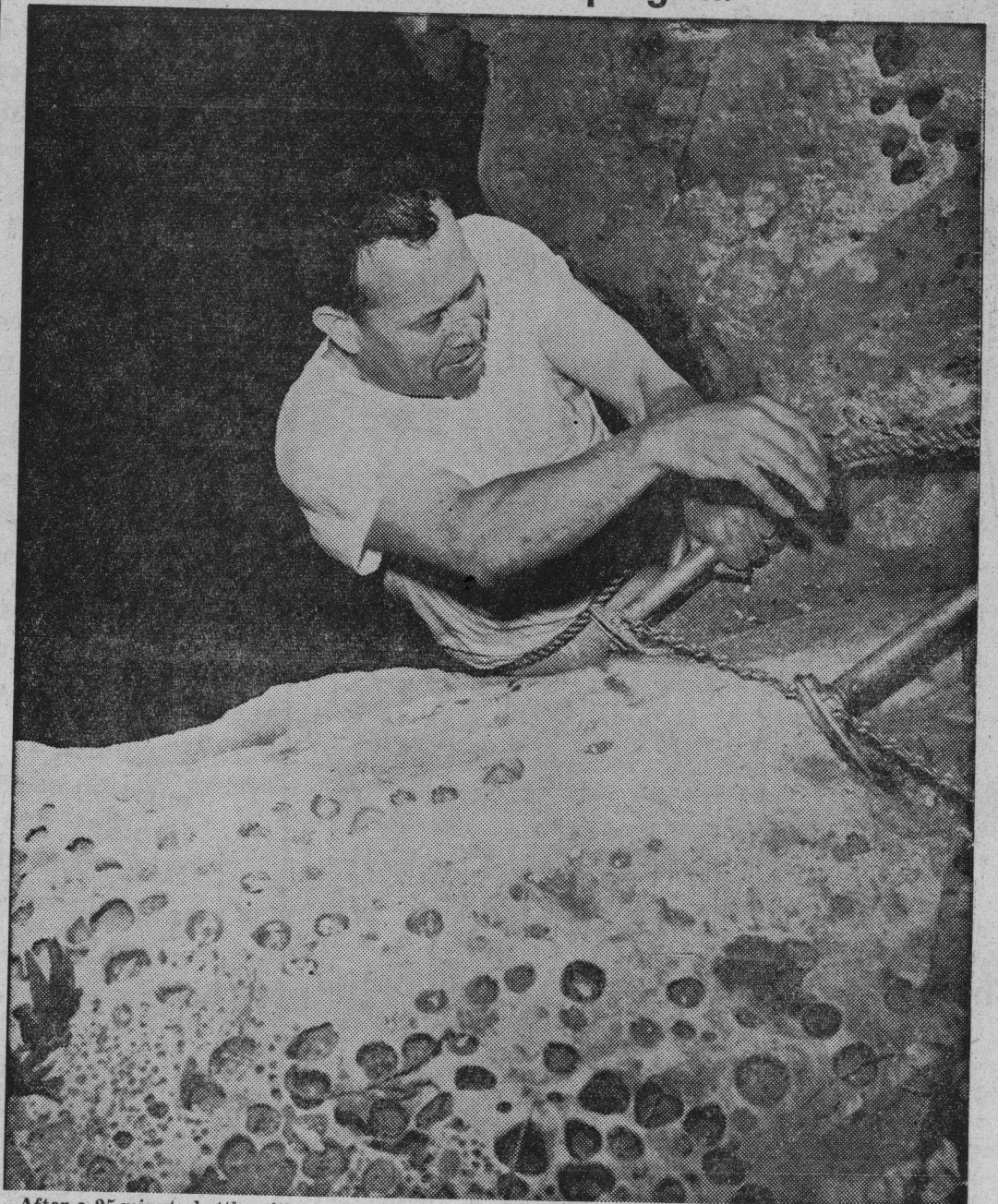
The contestants will meet February 14, at 10 a.m. in the civic auditorium for the city-wide championship.

Senior division playground winners were Mike Owen, 14, of Mission Hill; Jean Anderson, 14, of Branciforte; Richard Anderson, 15, of Gault, and Robert Wilson, 12, of Gault.

Tamey Owen, 6, of Laurel school and Eugene Hall, 12, of Mission Hill, also won lower division yo-yo playground titles.

Dr. Donald Alcott

Phew, Back On Top Again!



After a 25-minute battle with the powerful ocean currents in one of Santa Cruz' biggest caves and worst erosion sites, Assistant City Street Superintendent Loren Scofield climbs back to the surface. Scofield and another street department worker yesterday afternoon attempted to gauge the erosion problem below West Cliff drive near Woodrow avenue.

## Townsend Club To Meet Tomorrow

The increase in social security payments and how it will affect pensioners, will be discussed when Santa Cruz Townsend Club 11 meets tomorrow evening in Hackley hall. A question and answer period will be conducted, according to Ed J. Dreis, president of

## New Stamp Club To Meet Tuesday

A newly organized stamp club will meet next Tuesday at 8 o'clock in Hackley hall, 513 Center street. All stamp enthusiasts are invited to attend.

Organizer Douglas Peterson said that the main purpose of the club will be to exchange, trade and auction stamps among the members. All persons over 18 years of age are invited to join.

President Eisenhower's statement as a collector: "More than the price of a hobby for the enjoyment of leisure hours, the stamps of the world are powerful object lessons in the eternal hunger of man for knowledge and news about their fellow men."

California fremontia is a small evergreen tree of the dry foot-





City Street Department Worker Jack Legher tests the bowline knot around his waist yesterday and begins a 40-foot descent into the bowels of Santa Cruz. The worker went below the West Cliff drive area in an attempt to gauge erosion dam-

age to the rock strata under the street and adjacent private property. Already at the bottom of the cavern in chest to waist-high water is Assistant Street Superintendent Loren Scofield.

**ROYAL ARCH MASONS  
TO MEET FRIDAY NIGHT**  
Santa Cruz Royal Arch M.

## Lunch Tomorrow

The long awaited "Youth Survey," by the Santa Cruz County Youth council will be presented tomorrow at a luncheon in Garbini's. Lunch is \$1.50.

The report will cover key recommendations from a study of six major county agencies. They are: probation, law enforcement, social agencies, health, education and recreation.

Youth Survey booklets will be available for each organization represented.

## Daffy Don Plans Laundry Party

A "Westinghouse Home Laundry Party" will be staged at Daffy Don's Furniture Outlet tomorrow afternoon and evening, it has been announced by owner Don Epperson.

The demonstration will be conducted by Helen Randol, a well-known home economist. It will give housewives an opportunity to receive the answers to perplexing problems on washing.

Prizes will be awarded to those attending the event.

## Eagles Lodge

The pair shuffled between openings where they could look worriedly down on the scene below and vocally sweated about what might happen if . . .

Back on the surface, Scofield reported that the cave had not pushed back much further since the last time it was checked four years ago.

The project was launched when a neighborhood dog kept sniffing at a small hole at the side of West Cliff drive in a line with the blow hole on to the sea beyond.

The dog's owner, Ernest Brundin of 940 West Cliff drive, noted that the dog's ears twitched unaccountably and investigated, according to Scofield. What Brundin found was the sound of the smashing surf and the woosh of air when a breaker came in.

However, extensive investigat-

