



## William R. Halliday

### Contributions to Pseudokarst Studies

Dr. William R. Halliday, one of the fathers of American caving and speleological studies, passed away on September 20, 2024 at 98 years of age. Bill lived a long and productive life. He wrote several books about caves and caving adventures, founded numerous caving organizations in the United States, and wrote prolifically about all types of caves and their origin. He was the President of the IUS Commission on Volcanic Caves, active in the IUS Pseudokarst Commission, and founder of the Hawai'i Speleological Survey, among many other achievements.

Bill had a strong interest in all aspects of cave development and forms of caves, including those developed beneath landforms that have the morphology of classical karst, but which are non-solutional in origin, i.e., pseudokarst.

Perhaps Bill's earliest contribution to the pseudokarst literature was a 1954 article in a regional publication titled appropriately "Pseudokarst": (Salt Lake Grotto Technical Note 25, Nov. 1954). He followed this with a more formal discussion in the July 1960 issue of the National Speleological Society Bulletin: "Pseudokarst in the United States" in which he described pseudokarstic features in the western United States including caves developed in basalt flows, beneath glaciers, and in poorly consolidated sediments. Bill's interest in the subject continued with chapters on piping caves and pseudokarst in the Encyclopedia of Caves and Karst Science (Gunn, 2004) where he provided a working definition of the term, an extensive discussion of various aspects of pseudokarst, and classified the major types of landforms and processes involved in its development.

Bill's last contribution to pseudokarst literature appeared in the June 2021 issue of the regional publication: Rocky Mountain Caving (Vol. 39, No. 2) when he was 95 years old; 67 years after his first report on pseudokarst. Titled "Mega-Patterns in Southwestern Karst and Pseudokarst", he described a variety of non-solutional features found throughout the western U.S., including crevice caves in sandstones, littoral caves, soil pipes, vertical walled overhung sinkholes in sandstones and vertical breccia pipes.

Bill was active, curious, and productive to nearly the end of his life. He concluded his last report writing: "I wish you 70+ years of caving as joyous as mine. To all, the best of caving forever".

Farewell, Bill. You will be sorely missed.