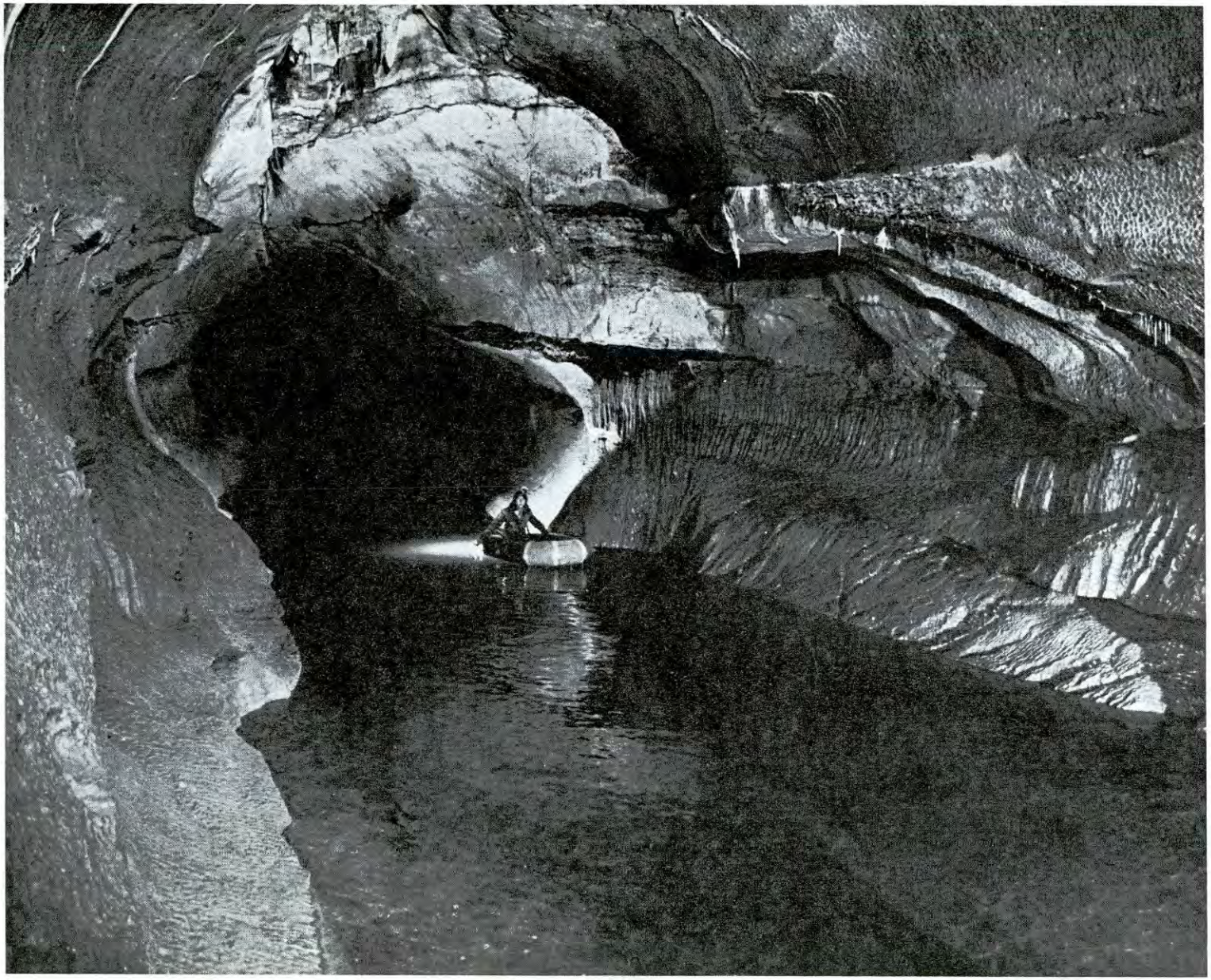
CALIFORNIA CAVER



VOL. 26 NO. 3
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Vol. 26 #3

THE CALIFORNIA CAVER
VOL. 26, #3
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This month's COVER PHOTO was taken by Art Palmer and is a typical passage in Križna jama ("Church Cave") in Slovenia, Yugoslavia. On page 79 of this issue is the story of the Palmer's visit to Yugoslavia.

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EDITOR'S NOTES

-- No doubt you've heard that someone broke the old (35.5 second) 100-foot-mechanical-pursik record at this years convention. The new record-holder and winner of his class in the vertical contest is Bill Stone, from Pittsburgh, PA, with an eye-opening time of 29.8 seconds. Jerry Neuman claims that's faster than he rappels 100 ft.!

--It surely would have been nice if someone had written something for this issue of the CAL CAVER about all the 'goings on' at this years convention for all those who did not attend.

--Sadly to say, the Diablo Grotto was the only grotto within the Region to receive a certificate, at the national convention, for having 100% NSS membership in their grotto.

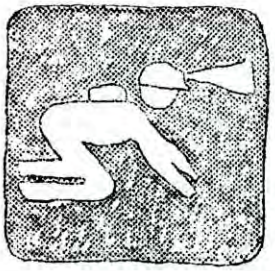
--Congratulations to Ralph Squire and Russ Harter who were awarded Fellowships at the convention.

--If you're planning the long, hot, dry walk down to McLean's Cave, one word of advice -- DON'T. McLean's has been gated by the Army Corpse of Engineers and is closed until Tom Briggs can do the bugs transplant. After Tom does his thing, the cave will remain gated and admittance will be by permit only. (The gate was installed on Aug. 18)

--Speaking of caves being closed, the Columbia Marble Quarry has blown the entrance to McNamee's Cave closed. Could this be a result of negotiations with the Corpse of Engineers to pur hase the property?

--Ray Beach, of the San Francisco Bay Chapter, was actually seen in a cave recently using an electric light, no less.

--Lou Wenzell of the Bureau of Reclamation has called to our attention a group of 14 new interpretive (wordless) signs the National Park Service will soon be using. The new signs will depict rock climbing, points of interest, canoeing, swimming, snowmobiling, trail biking, wading, boat tours, laundromats, rock collecting, litter containers, and of course, spelunking. These signs will be posted both in areas where the activites are allowed and in areas where they are not allowed, they will have a red slash across them. The spelunking sign appears below.



--FLASH! As I am sitting here typing this page, the CAL CAVER hotline (415-687-1960) rings and brings us word that the new gate on McLean's Cave has not held up very well. It lasted only about three weeks. It seems that the Corp knows more about dams than cave gates!

--Will the true author of "Over the Back Fence" please stand up.

(continued)

EDITOR'S NOTES, continued

--Friends of The River are still active and are requesting everyone to send a postcard to Governor Brown saying "Please withdraw state support for the New Melones Dam project." Their theory being if the Governor withdraws state support, the project can go no further. Governor Brown's address is: The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr. State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 96814. The Friends claim that the Governor is not very favorable towards the dam.

--A member of our own ranks has made the front page of the OAKLAND TRIBUNE: San Diego (AP) One-eight of all beachgoers in California's second biggest city want to use the sand and surf without clothes, the San Diego City Council has been told. The council plans to consider next Thursday whether to allow nude swimming and sunning at four more beaches. Black's Beach has been "swimsuit optional" for a year. David Irving, spokesman for the Nude Beaches Committee, told the councilmen this week that the 900-foot stretch of Black's Beach is overcrowded. "There were 20,000 people there on Memorial Day," Irving said. "The demand for nude beaches is there."

--Word comes from Jerry Neuman that if he is to have anything to write about as Regional Correspondent to the NSS NEWS, YOU will have to send him your little tibbits of news. His address is: 158 Magnolia St., San Francisco, CA 94123.

--The Merced Cavers are looking for new members. Seems they've taken to recruiting them from the City Department of Recreation in Merced!!!

--The blook temperature of a myotis bat (family Vespertilionidae) sometimes falls to an extreme figure of 29.6° F. during a deep hibernation.

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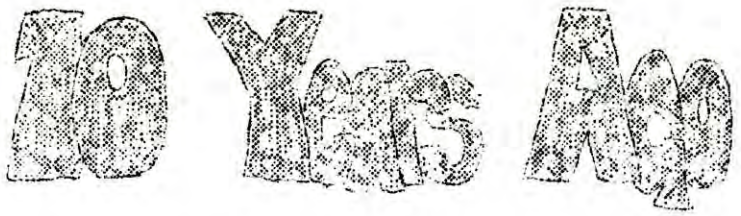
CAVE VANDAL TROPHEY (from CAVE CRAWLER'S GAZETTE)

The next time you catch a vandal, remove his/her head at the bottom of his/her neck. Once you have the head removed, part the hair and make a cut up the back of the neck to the widest part of the skull. Then proceed to make more cuts at the eyes, nose, and ears. You should be able to peel the skin off. On doing this, scrape the insides of the skin. When finished, sew the eye slits up and put three wooden pins through the lips with string wraped around to keep the lips closed. Boil the skin for two hours in a pot of water.

In the meantime, gather stones and heat them. The skin should shrink down to one third its original size and become pale and rubbery. After two hours, sew the back slit up and drop in the largest hot stone you have. Spin the head to sizzle away and cure the skin. At the same time, polish and mould the outside with a smaller stone. Keep doing this, using smaller and smaller stones, plucking the eye brows and lashes to keep them to scale. After several hours, you will need to use hot sand instead of stones to ease out the creases. Once the head has shrunk as much as you want it to, pierce the crown and take a loop of fiber to sew the neck shut. Make a bigger fire now and string the head above it to smoke it. Once it gets very black, you can polish it with a soft cloth.

Strategically placed near the cave's entrance, with a small explanation, the head may serve as a deturent to vandalism...



BY DELL QUICK

In the September 1965 CALIFORNIA CAVER the reader is taken searching with George Jackson for Greenhorn Caves in remote reaches of the Kern River country, experiencing with George the excitement of exploration and wonder at the caves' strangeness. Those unusual granite purgatory caves are as little-known ans seldom-visited now as they were then. In another article, Conrad Fiederer entices the reader with a report on the discovery of a new fissure cave in an area that beckons further hunting, including checking out a 300-foot pit on a mountain! Bruce Rogers, from his readings in DESERT magazine, passes on mention of a possible, though unlikely, natural granit solution cave, "The Pipes", at Bonanza King Mine in the Providence Mountains. And science enters the collage of this issue's cave investigations in Lou Goodman's geological and palenontological description of Hohloch Bei Raitenbuch, Germany.

Also in the scientific sector, abstracts are given of papers presented at the GSA Symposium of Limestone Hydrology held at U C Berkeley.

A cave gating article by Dwight Deal gives reasons for gates and thoughts on increasing the gates' effectiveness.

A historical capsule of the California Region compiled by CAL CAVER Editor Dave McClurg contains valuable information, including a list of dates significant to regional history; a copy of a 1956 letter to California cavers from Jim Gossett proposing a Labor Day meeting to create a "western region"; and a list of regional convention sites and regional chairmen of the previous ten years.

A planning meeting for the 1966 NSS Convention in Sequoia Park is announced.

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HOW DARK IS A CAVE???

While touring a commercial cave about a year ago, I heard the usual comments about how it was formed, cave formations, etc. Since this was routine speech comments for commercial caves, I took little note, until the guide made the comment that a cave, when in total darkness, is some 40% darker than the darkest moonless night you will ever experience. While a cave is darker than night, I wonder if anyone knows if any studies have been done, or if this was just an impressive and seemingly logical piece of B.S. stated for the benefit of tourists?? Any comments anyone?

--Gary K. Soule
Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin

BIG STREAM CAVE

CALIFORNIA'S DEEPEST

BY STEVE KNUTSON
(WILLAMETTE VALLEY GROTTO)

The following story is one of extraordinary good fortune that comes only occasionally to cavers during their caving careers. Perhaps it is a reward for more than 10 years of cave hunting in the speleological desert of the Pacific Northwest. Jim Nieland and I think so.

The story begins vaguely in the spring of 1974 when I took a job in southern Oregon, hoping to escape the speleopolitical wars of the Oregon Grotto. I would be working for the Forest Service with Jim Nieland and my arrival would renew an old caving partnership.

Weekends soon found Jim, his caving wife Libby, and me scouting the scatered limestone of northern California for the elusive cave. Returning to one area where Jim and I had previously encountered a deep pit, the three of us, plus Wayne Walent of Carmel, Calif., found a sink. Beneath one vertical wall we observed a narrow opening. Examining this more closely Jim was met with a blast of frigid air and there was an immediate dash to put on cave gear.

Jim was first to get lit up and immediately ventured down the narrow sloping passage. A few feet and the floor dropped away. Tossed rocks banged and clattered, and echoed ominously. It sounded deep. Very deep! With great excitement, Jim got out a 150 foot piece of Perlo anchored it to a solid rock in the sink, and rappeled. About this time I got on my own gear and began making inquiries to Libby at the entrance as to what was going on!? Jim had apparently run out of rope and was yelling for more. But Western pits ain't supposed to do that!!! Donning a coiled 165' MSR, I followed on rappel, Jim having unroped on a ledge. The drop was excruciatingly narrow at the lip, then belled out and was free for 30' to a steep slope, a 20' drop, another steep slope, another 20' drop, and there was Jim, across the shaft (now 20' in diameter) on the ledge.

Unroping, I traversed the same ledge and we rigged the 165 to a tall blade. The bottom didn't seem so far away, but the first didn't reach and stopping on the ledge was easier than passing a knot. It proved to be only 65' free to the bottom -- the whole series was very pleasing with solid walls but loose rock on the ledges and was worrisome. To get out of the way we decided to proceed, and yelled up that we were going on, downcave. The reply was that Wayne would be down and catch up later but that Libby would remain on the surface.

Decending a slope, we came to where the passage forked and it was obvious that we had joined a major stream passage, though at that time of year it was not surprising that the stream was quite small. Downstream looked like a water crawl so we headed the opposite, traversing some spacious passages.

(continued)

At a high dome-room it looked like an upper level joined and our stream level turned into slots and crawls and generally low stuff. Finally we came to a small dome which might be climbable, though we didn't try. A 1-foot hole at the base, leading upstream, was blowing strongly.

We mapped our way back from that point leaving a few small side passages unchecked, but very pleased with what we had found---this was definitely a major cave.

Near the entrance we encountered Wayne Walent who was not as upset as he should have been and blew our minds with his activities. He had taken us at our word and gone down the stream passage, through an 8" high water crawl, out into walking passage and to where our 'major' passage joined a passage with larger stream and larger dimensions!

Down through this cavernous way Wayne proceeded, the passage gettir larger and larger until he decided he'd best forget it! Back at the entrance drop, addition showed we had mapped 800' upstream. Wayne opted to leave, since he had the longer drive home. We forged downstream to see what he had found. The junction was reached and christened Cave Junction for the town where we worked. Down stream we passed the beautiful flowstone Wayne had described and reached a point where the passage opened out into a room 100' wide and 30-40' high.

A tumble of hugh boulders covered the floor and led down to the far wall where the passage continued, but as a stream crawl about 2' high. It didn't look promising. Heading back we went briefly upstream from Cave Junction and encountered a branching of the ways. One side passa led to a tall dome where a spoken word reverberated for several second ---Echo Dome, of course. Mapping our way up the entrance series gave us about 1200' of slope traverse for the day and a descent of 220' fro the surface down to the stream passage----and we hadn't laid tape to a thing downstream.

Next trip....

On Aug. 31 the three of us plus Dan and Steve Jordan made it back for further investigation of our fascinating discovery. First we mapped downstream to Cave Junction and on down to the Big Room. The belly crawl leading on didn't look inviting, but it did go on...and on...and on. A couple of places when the stream would go thru stuff too low for human traverse, we would back-track, find an overflow bypass, get back to the stream and map on. We were mapping in just to make sure we got the job done. As Jim observed, this was a 'heavy duty' cave and if we explored until we got tired, there would be no energy left for mapping.

After nearly a thousand feet of stream crawl the cave suddenly opened up and, as the lead caver, I was able to stand and see ahead.-- It enlarged spectacularly! A shout echoed ahead nicely and I entered a large room some 40' wide and 30' high with the stream cascading noisily to the floor.

At the bottom of the room, the stream entered a nasty, narrow slot turned a couple of corners, and disappeared through a crack, and one go very wet finding this out! It appeared that breakdown had closed our stream passage. Jim found a good hole which was sucking air and went o

(continued)

but time and energy were running out so we turned back. We had mapped 2400' of limestone cave passage in one session---an unheard of feat for this part of the country.

The following day, Dan and Steve Jordan and I went again to Cave Jct and mapped upstream, exploring as we went. Our clothes were somewhat wet and the narrower passage upstream caused the air-flow to be faster and the wind chill greater. The result was that we had only mapped about 700-800' before we were so damned cold we had to give it up. We did find out that the major passage continues strongly upstream though a bit constricted.

About this time I had gotten some of the cave plotted and to my surprise the Terminal Room lay some 550' below the entrance! The cave was showing significant depth, and the idea of increasing that figure became foremost in our minds.

Next trip....

On Sept. 8 I was back to check an opening that Jim and Lib had found farther down the mountain. Air blew strongly out of what was obviously a seasonal resurgence and I wanted to work upslope to our big cave. Inside, the crawl passage angled down for 50' or so, a few shallow pools (which I strenuously straddled), then upslope. Obviously the thing siphoned under any sort of runoff at all--not a comforting thought.

Crawling on I kept thinking that things had really gone well for in this area so far--so this cave should go! After a few hundred feet sure enough my crawl opened into a room with mud banks sloping up to the walls--maybe blocked passage. Following the dry stream (I was hoping it didn't rain) it went back into crawlway but soom encountered a stream. The present waterflow was coming that far and being pirated by some lower system? Ahead I could hear running water echoing in the large passage! The crawl opened up into big passage and I was soon moving along in a major streamway. All alone, it was a somewhat shocking change from the crawl. The sounds of water and movement echoed and shadows moved. The air movement had disappeared however, and not far along the cave became complex. The main passage ended, and the water cascaded in through impassable holes. I explored side passages but these tended to double back. I found a short section of apparently independent stream, but could not find a way on. I couldn't even find the air movement again. Counting body lengths on the way out gave about 1100' to the main passage --- a major cave in itself.

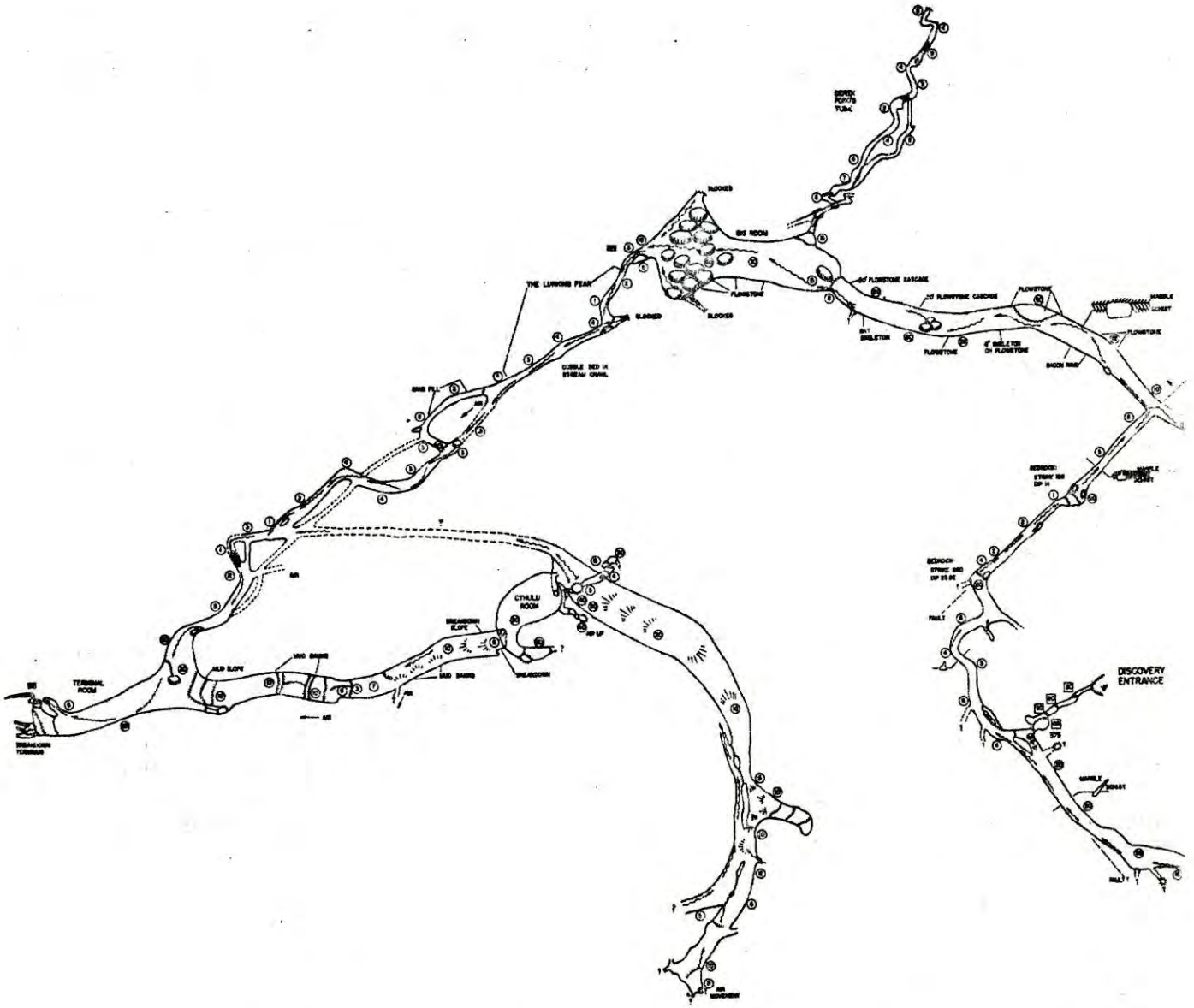
Next trip....

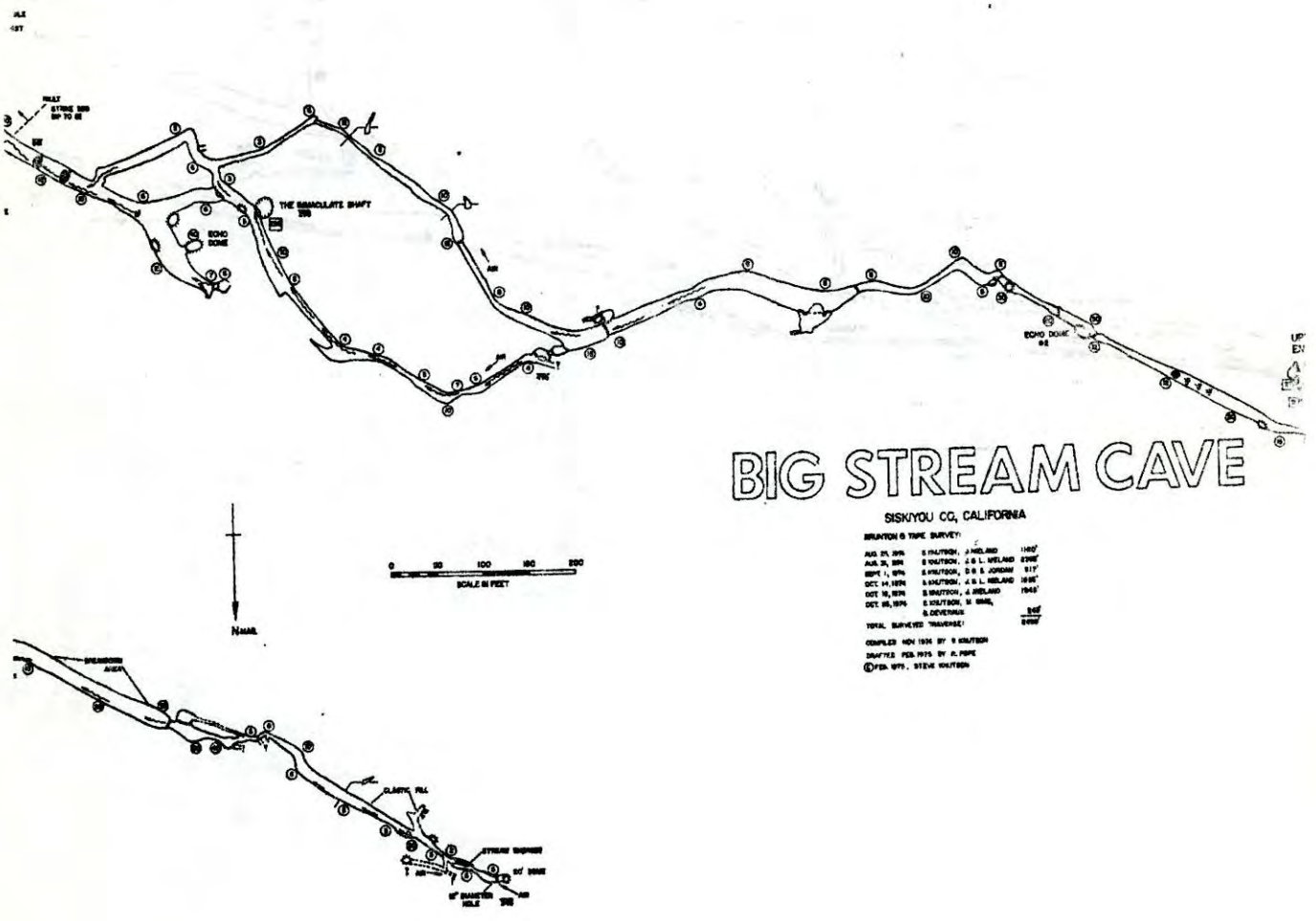
Sept. 21 I was back again and hunted above the main entrance for an upper entrance which must exist because of the persistant air flow in the main passage. Several hundred feet higher I found a relatively inconspicuous pit opening about 5' in diameter and flush with the ground. Thrown rocks rattled down, paused in silence, that crashed and echoed. It sounded very deep but not like a single drop....

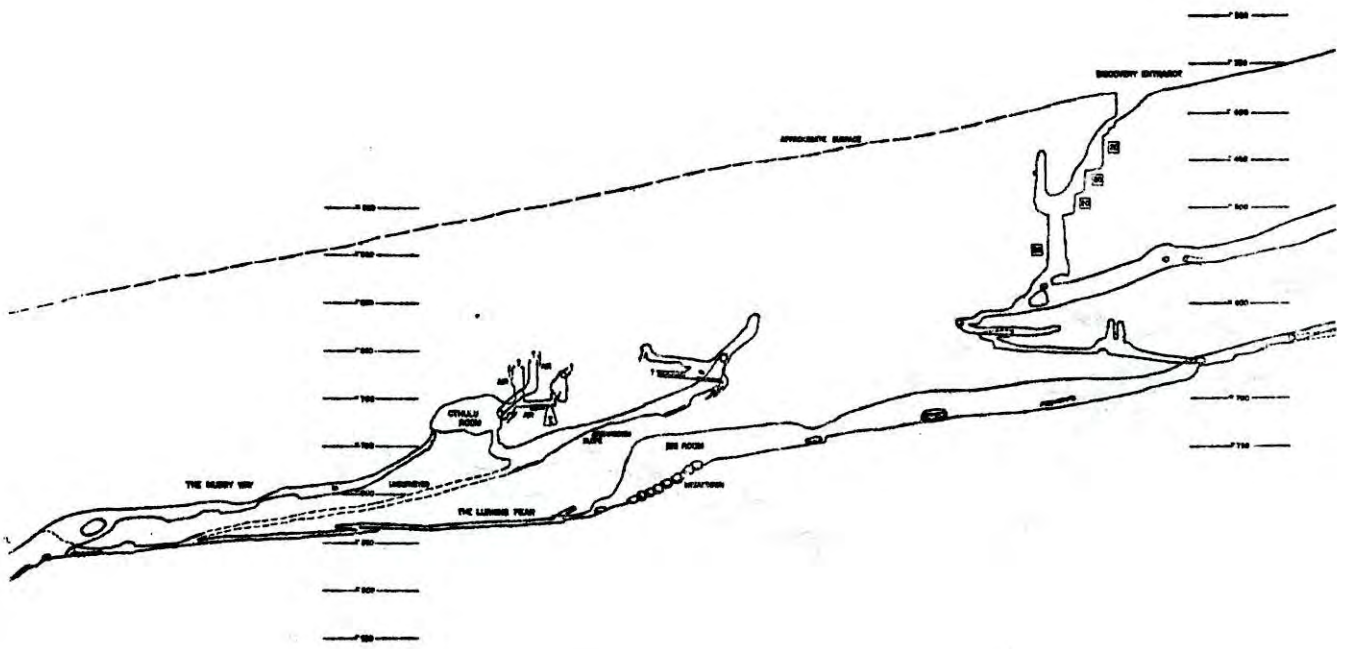
Next trip....

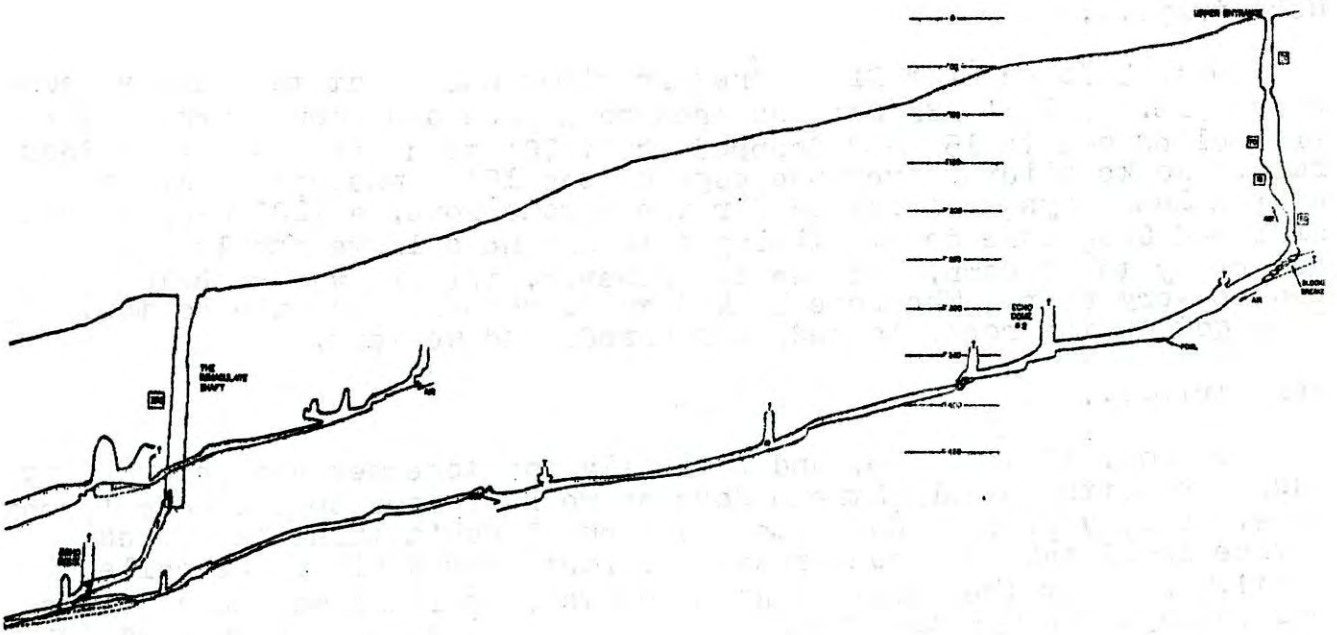
Solo again on Sept. 28. I searched the creek down the mountain a resurgence--the streams in the cave must exit somewhere I reasoned.

(text continued on page 78)


BIG ROOM
THE LURKING FEAR
CTHULU ROOM
DISCOVERY ENTRANCE


THE IMMACULATE SHAFT
ECHO DOME
ECHO DOME
BIG STREAM CAVE
SISKIYOU CO, CALIFORNIA
SCALE IN FEET
NAME





BIG STREAM CAVE

BISKIYOU CO. CALIF

BRUNTON & TAPE SURVEY
AUG. 23, 1975 S. KNUTSON, J. NIELAND
AUG. 31, 1975 S. KNUTSON, J. & L. NIELAND
SEPT. 1, 1975 S. KNUTSON, D. & S. JORDAN
OCT. 14, 1975 S. KNUTSON, J. & L. NIELAND
OCT. 19, 1975 S. KNUTSON, J. NIELAND
OCT. 26, 1975 S. KNUTSON, M. DAVIS, S. DEVEREAUX

COMPILED BY S. KNUTSON NOV 1975
DRAFTED BY R. POPE JAN. 1976
© 1975, STEVE KNUTSON

After an encounter with a bear in the brush I got lucky and spotted the only tributary that we know of to date from the portion of the mountain where our cave is. Following it upstream to the point where it issued showed that the flow was larger than the creek below. A little makeshift mapping gave me the approximate elevation--it appears to be several hundred feet below the Terminal Room!

Next trip....

Oct. 5 found Mike Sims, Greg Erickson and me at this newly found upper pit. A 165' MSR was anchored to a tree and down I went. The pit belled out to 15' and dropped about 70' to a steep slope of loose rock. Rocks sliding over the edge of the 15' downslope seemed to drop a long ways so I called for the second rope, a 120' Sampson and Mike and Greg came down. Tieing this around a large stable rock I got ready to go down. At the lip however, the pit yawned below and looked very deep. The rope looked to be nowhere near the bottom. Greg got on the rope, looked, concurred, and we left.

Next trip....

On Oct. 12 Jim, Lib, and I finally got together and returned to push the bottom of Big Stream Cave as we have come to call our 'great' cave. (Libby prefers Godwatta Cave, but I don't think the Forest sevice would take our conservation efforts seriously if we called it that). Down at the Terminal Room however, we found we had a problem. Our passage through the breakdown was not quite large enough to get through although air was being sucked in rather well. Frustrated, we explored around and found, by ascending a long steep mud slope, that the Terminal Room is part of a major trunk passage which extends upslope through the blockage in the downstream direction we really wanted to go. This is low at first with mud banks forming occasional dams. Apparently it is not now an active streamcourse. Soon a room was reached which we encountered an active streamway and pushed on through very large passage. The time soon ran short so we mapped back to the Terminal Room, about a 1500' traverse. We hadn't gained depth but we did discover perhaps the main passage of the cave and it should yield quite a bit more.

We now began to think of pushing upcave to gain depth. Two days later Jim and I extended the survey upstream from Cave Jct over a thousand feet, being stopped by a vertical series---could this be the upper pit series we had started to explore? Plotting this showed that our stopping point was 140' above the entrance, upping the total depth of the cave to 690' -- outstanding!

Next trip....

October 26 saw Mike Sims, Bill Devereaux and I return to the upper pit series to see if we would connect it with the cave. Fall was wearing on and for the first time the weather didn't look good. Once the weather broke it was assumed that the winter snows would come and end out activities for the year. We had been very lucky up to that point. Under stormy skies we dropped the 70' and rigged Bill's 230' for further descent. The next drop was a beautiful pit, 70' to a short ledge (which because of the prior attempt promoted Derald

(continued on page 89)

CAVING IN YUGOSLAVIA

BY ART & PEG PALMER

(ed. note - Dr. Arthur N. Palmer is an assistant professor of hydrology and geophysics at the State University of New York, College of Oneonta. He, and his wife Peg, have been active with the Cave Research Foundation for a number of years. His graduate work from 1963 to 1967 at Indiana University (Bloomington) involved the study of hydrology, geophysics, and geomorphology, with a Ph.D. dissertation on the hydrology of the Indiana karst. Some of his projects have included stratigraphic and structural mapping of karst ground-water systems in New York, Kentucky, West Virginia, and Utah, the cartography of Blue Springs Cave and Mammoth-Flint Ridge Cave System. He is also the curator of McFails Cave

INTRODUCTION

The caves and karst of Yugoslavia are considered a standard by which all others are compared. Yet to most Americans, perhaps with good reason, the country and its extensive limestone areas seem remote and inaccessible. Having been invited to Slovenia, the northernmost provin for part of the summer of '72, we naturally were eager to see how the "Real Karst" compared to our own. Our host was Dr. Ivan Gams (well-kn geomorphologist) and the Ljubljana Cave Club. Since then there has be a severe limitation to the freedom of foreigners to visit Yugoslav cav and even at that time we were required to be accompanied by local cave on all our underground trips. This was no particular burden, as the Yugoslav cavers are outgoing, friendly, and strongly favorable towards western ways. Communication is no problem, because most older people know German and the younger ones are remarkably fluent in English.

GENERAL SETTING

The true Karst, or "Kras", as it is properly spelled in Slovene, is a low, rolling, hilly country composed of prominent blocks of mesozoi limestone bordered by low, fault-controlled basins (poljes) that are partly solutional in origin. Although the geology is quite different, the overall fell of the landscape and climate is reminiscent of the kars of Greenbrier Co., West Virginia. Streams flow in one side of the lime- stone blocks and out the other, flow across polje bottoms, and repeat the process by disappearing into the opposite wall of the polje. Becaus the poljes are floored by thick alluvium or by insoluble rocks, under- ground streams in the uplands tend to be hung up at a single elevation for long periods of time, resulting in cave passages that by anyone's standards are huge. However, because of the structural deformation and discontinuous nature of the limestone uplands, caves tend not to be overly long.

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YUGOSLAVIA'S LONGEST CAVES

Most of the well-known caves of Slovenia are associated with two extensive river systems: the Reka, which sinks into the famous tourist cave Škocjanske jama and flows underground more than 10 miles (mostly inaccessible) to the Adriatic Sea near Trieste; and the Ljubljanica, which flows eastward, eventually to the Danube.

For an introduction to Slovene caves, Dr. Gams brought us on a commerical tour of Škocjanske jama at the sinks of the Reka. We are normally turned off by commercial tours, so not understanding a word of the guide's chatter helped our enjoyment immensely. Gams seemed to have private run of all caves in the province, so we loped on ahead through a nicely decorated passage about 50 feet in diameter. But then --WOW-- we turned an abrupt corner and encountered the main stream passage, whic from our vantage point more than 100 feet off the floor looked like the Grand Canyon with a roof over it. Off in the distance, halfway up the 270-foot-high passage (actual measurement) was a slender foot bridge spanning the chasm, illuminated through the mist by lights the size of airport beacons. Crossing to the other side, we could feel the bridge tremble from the roar of the river below -- and this was during low flow Apparently 50-foot floods are rather common. The tour heads directly upstream for 1500 feet to the main entrance, lasting a total of less tha an hour. But certainly of any commercial cave in the world, this must be the most spectacular (if you like rivers). The cave ends downstream in a sump after a disappointingly short distance, but two years ago Slovene cavers broke into a downstream segment of the underground Reka through a 300-foot shaft and have explored more than a mile of huge rive passage.

At least a dozen large and well-known caves have been formed by the tributaries of the Ljubljanica. Most of these are low-gradient river passages reminiscent of caves in the sinkhole plains of the mideastern U.S. One branch of the river flows through what is probably the most popular commercial cave in Europe, Postojnska jama. Tourists travel through the cave in open-car electric trains, staring as the black wal of the cave rumble by -- the ultimate in passive recreation. With Gam we gladly went alone on foot, flattening against the wall every 20 minutes as a train sailed past on its steel tracks. This is Yugoslavia's longest cave, with a respectable 10.3 miles of passage. Its pattern is rather complex, owing to numerous floodwater diversions, but in spite of plentiful decorations and overall large passage size, from a caving point of view it is rather pale stuff in comparison with the Reka syste

The Ljubljana Cave Club took us on numerous trips to the other cav of the Ljubljanica. Križna jama is rather typical, with about 5.5 mile of river passage, basically on a single level (see cover photo). The rubber raft photos in Bögli and Franke's Radiant Darkness were taken in this cave. (In fact, that's Gams paddling merrily in the raft.)

The streams in Postojnska jama and Križna jama eventually join and spill out of a huge mouth-like opening in a polje wall, which is the entrance to Planinska jama. This is a monster version of Križna jama, and is more or less commercialized (if the guide happens to be there). We visited the cave twice, the second time to photograph the main passage from a bridge that spans the stream a short distance into the cave. Peering into the gloom from the middle of the bridge above the dark water, cameras in hand, with 4 lamps blazing away, we could see nothing

(continued)

We have an extensive collection of slides at home that show exactly that; so rather than waist flash bulbs, since the guide happened not to be there that day, we traveled on for a considerable distance beyond th commercial trail. Although it might seem monotonous, there is a certai thrill in walking through a cave while seeing only a small patch of flc or ahead of you. The entire cave is 3.3 miles long, but without rafts less than half of this distance can be covered.

The river that emerges from Planinska jama wanders across the polj and sinks at the opposite wall, a couple of miles away, in an inaccessible opening. A recently discovered cave (Najdena jama) comprises a system of overflow routes for the river, but no major stream passage has been found. Najdena jama is entered by a tiny hole in the plateau. It has a fair amount of vertical relief, including mud-lined pits leading to pools 100 feet deep in places. It is billed as the"muddiest cave in Europe", which may be true, but it certainly falls short of some Missour caves for quantity and quality of mud.

THE JULIAN ALPS

The Yugoslav karst stretches in a seemingly endless swath down the Adriatic coast, increasing in barrenness and grandeur to the south. The Ljubljana club is reluctant to cave down there for fear of being gunned down by hostile Montenegrans. As a result, comparatively little is known about caves in lower Yugoslavia. Few of the local inhabitants have any interest in caving. The Ljubljana club has been far more activ to the north, near the borders of Italy and Austria, in the Julian Alps. This is politically their own turf, though possession of the area has been bitterly disputed by the three countries in the past. It is also the location of Yugoslavia's deepest cave, Poloska jama.

Ivan Gams was anxious to visit the cave, as he'd never seen it before. We drove to the Julian Alps, as far as possible up a winding dir road, and bedded down for the night next to a picturesque, tumbled-dowr farmhouse in as peaceful a valley as you could imagine. But come morning, we noticed that the house had at one time been fortified with loo holes and parapets and that the innocent-looking lobes of ground visib across the valley were abandoned bunkers. And then, slowly up the roac came a procession of foot-soldiers straight out of Ernest Hemingway, wi field guns drawn by mules, passing on into the mist. The memory of previous wars is still very fresh in people's minds here.

For one of the world's "deepest", Plolška jama is not terribly difficult, but is loads of fun. It is entered from near the lower end, and spans a vertical range of 2200 feet, most of which has to be climbed rather than descended, from the entrance. The passages are tubular and just the right size for humans, with little wasted space. Against a blast of icy air that sweeps through the cave, one climbs on and on endlessly into the mountain. The passages form a real tangle of loops, bo vertical and horizontal, with a total length of 6.3 miles. Although the need for rope work is minimal, the cave offers an impressive variety of chimneys that can be free-climbed. With light loads we were able to ge most of the way through the cave and back before dark. We highly recommend the trip.

YUGOSLAV CAVING TECHNIQUES AND PHILOSOPHY

By North American standards, Yugoslav caving techniques appear con-

(continued)

servative and archaic. Single-rope techniques for vertical drops are virtually unknown, and the impressively deep shafts of their country (as much as 1000 feet deep) have all been tackled with cable ladders. Digging, diving, and other peripheral pursuits are not at all popular. Yugoslav cavers carry huge, hand-held carbide lamps that burn for 8-12 hours on a single charge and can be pumped up to increase the internal pressure until a foot-long blast of flame is achieved. The accepted method for making them work when clogged is to swing them by their handles and bash them against a rock. Most carbide can be purchased only in lumps about 3 inches in diameter and must be hammered down to appropriate size.

But the cavers we met were friendly, skilled, and enthusiastic, and they were more than happy to have us join their cave trips. Understandably, they show great pride in their local caves, which occasionally brings foreign visitors to grief. For instance, a visiting team from southern England was guided by a young Yugoslav caver to a cave that he described as having "an 18-meter entrance pit and an unexplored river at the bottom". The Brits piled into their wet suits. An hour later, at the top of the plateau, they reached the entrance. In the 85-degree heat only three of the eight visitors had survived heat prostration enough to go into the cave. And it turns out that the guide meant 80 meters (260 feet) for the pit (his English wasn't the best) -- this was more than three times deeper than any the English had done before. They just barely made it out of the cave. To cap it off, the "river" was merely a puddle at the end of the cave. Back home, the Yugoslavs thought this was hilarious, but the British weren't amused.

Later, at Najdena jama, with us as guides (sort of illegal, but suggested by the local cavers) the British were able to do their own thing and did it well -- discovering hundreds of feet of passage by diving, climbing, bolting, and grubbing. We found them to be kindred spirits. By American standards, the British on the whole are the best cavers in the world. The British team was curious why the Yugoslavs didn't expend more effort at making new discoveries but were content to explore new caves at a leisurely pace and one at a time. The response of the local cavers can be paraphrased as follows: "Caves are a finite resource, and a new discovery is something to be savored; if all the discoveries are made now, there will be none left for our children and grand-children to discover."

Which is the more mature attitude?

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"The world is divided into people who do things and people who get the credit. Try, if you can, to belong to the first class. There's far less competition." --Dwight Morrow

"The more you learn what to do for yourself, and the more you do for others, the more you will learn to enjoy the abundant life."
--William J. Boetcker

"We are thus living in the period of big cities. Deliberately, the world has been amputated of all that constitutes its permanence: nature, the sea, hilltops, and even meditation."
--A. Camus, the Muth of Sisyphus

WESTERN REGION, NSS

MINUTES OF THE JUNE 28, 1975 MEETING

The Regional Council meeting commenced at 9 am in the Frogtown Cafeteri

Those Grottoes which admitted their presence:
Diablo; Merced; Mother Lode; Oregon; San Francisco; San joaquin; Sierra Mojave; Southern Cal; Stanislaus; Willamette Valley;...approximately 76.9230% of the Regional membership was thus represented...unusual.

Amoung the Missing-Grottoes file:
Great Basin; San Diego; Southern Nevada

The following Grottoes lack a CAL CAVER representative:
Great Basin; Oregon; San Diego; Sierra Mojave; Southern Cal; Southern Nevada -Give in & share your hoarded grotto sectets with the Regio

I MINERAL KING

Adhering somewhat to the agenda, the first issue discussed was that of Mineral King. Allen Meyer has been endorsed by the WR as the representative to the Forest Service on Mineral King. There is also an in progress move to establish a task force on the National level, which Len Gaska is encouraging. Currently, there is a bill (HR 6882) under consideration to be introduced by Representative George Miller include Mineral King in Sequoia National Park. Under such management the area might receive more adequate protection than is afforded under present National Forest jurisdiction.

II STANISLAUS RIVER RAFTERS CAVING POLICY

In the recent past raft companies along the Stanislaus have been known to lure additional business with slides of caving and brochures with cave photographs, etc. Jim Fiack and Mark Dubois have written a letter (ed. note - CAL CAVER, JUNE 1975, p.56) asking rafters to stay away from McLean's Cave. Russ Pennell of SFBC informed the Region that the current policy of the raft companies is to keep people away from the caves along the river, with one exception... Seems the Region has complied with ancient rites by offering Coral Cave in sacrifice to the river-rat gods. Apparently, Coral Cave is quite wellknown on the Stanislaus and visited by all who camp at Duck Bar. There has been some reported "accidental" vandalism and uses as a party cave. After some discussion the WR concluded that a sign posted just inside the twilight zone of the cave entrance encouraging cave conservation and making suggestions such as: "Please limit your party to 5" etc. would be appropri ate. Ralph Squire has been appointed to oversee the installation of said sign by the Army Corpse of Engineers. A motion was made to have the Army Corps gate McLean's Cave, under Squire's direction; it passed with a majority.

III CAVE PROTECTION LAW FOR CALIFORNIA

Jim Fiack voiced the need for a sponsor to the law and for guidan in the proper language of the bill, the suggested model being West Vir ginia's law on cave protection. There was also a plea made for all WI

members to contribute slides with evidence of cave vandalism to help push the bill through; any examples of commercial caves (which in a sense are protected) would also be welcome. All contributions will be returned intact, if requested -- or we'll roast the Fiack's over coals at the next Regional get-together.

IV ORV USE POLICY IN NATIONAL FORESTS

Dave Cowan reported on the Forest Service's present planning of Off-Road Vehicle use policy. By making input to them concerning this project we demonstrate interest in their activities, for which they may later reciprocate with regard to our issues. Among individual suggestions taken from the floor were:

a) That a "use permit" be required claiming non-recreational business
b) That the WR restrict its comments to existing road areas we know about -- to avoid demaging our credibility (the WR members generally not having had much experience with all-terrain vehicles.)
c) That all travel in wilderness areas be prohibited
d) That ORV use be confined to a particular area for a defined amount of time, then alternated with another area to allow the former land a chance to recover
e) As an example: Washington has established successful special ORV areas which have become self-policing by somewhat conservation-minde inhabitants

Dave Cowan announced that he would send a letter to the Forest Service voicing some of the WR feelings. For individual comments, one may writ the ORV Coordinator, Elliot Graham, Mendocino NF, 420 E. Laurel St., Willows, CA 95988.

V ADMINISTRATION OF SCORPION CAVE

The Oregon Grotto has made an appeal that the WR become the administrator and key-holder of Scorpion Cave, -the Forest Service not presently wishing such an honor. Many present at the meeting feel that the cave may most properly be handled by the Forest Service, and they should be strongly pressed with the responsibility. A committee to discuss the value of the WR under-taking the management of caves, such as Scorpion, falling into our geographical domain was established. The following members will report at the next meeting over Labor Day: Jim Fiack, Rich Weisbrod, Mike Sims, Ed Block, Dell Quick, Ernie Coffma

VI REGIONAL MEMBERSHIP

A motion was made that the CAL CAVER non-membership subscription rate be raised to $2.00 per year; 2nd/ by Russ Pennell. The motion passed with a majority. Such exorbitant fees may induce non-members to join the WR...

VII CAVES OF CALIFORNIA - 2nd EDITION

There was some murmur of a second edition of the infamous book: Caves of California by Halliday, with the notable exclusion of the coveted cave locations. Halliday felt it could be republished in its original form, but would not mind revisions by the WR. As to whether the 2nd edition would surpass the first on the Best Seller's Caving List is doubtful....what is a cave book without locations? Anyway, a motion was made "That the Western Region set up a committee to coordinate with Dr. Halliday on reproducing and updating the Caves of California". Seconded by Dell Quick, the motion was defeated: 7 yes, 12 no. Another motion stated "The Western Region should oppose further publication of the Caves of California in its original form." This motion passed: 18

yes, 5 no. A second motion stating "If there is a future edition of Caves of California, it should be patterned after Stanislaus Cave Country." This motion was tabled.

VIII THANK-LESS JOB APPOINTMENTS

The deliriously delegating Regional Council congratulates two new appointees: The honorable Jim Fiack, who has been appointed Conservati Chairman for the WR; and the esteemed gossip-monger, Jerry Neuman, who willingly(?) agreed to act as the WR representative to the NSS NEWS. A round of applause for the taken-ins!

IX CHURCH CAVE

Hugh Blanchard reported dolefully on the degenerating conditions of Church Cave. According to Steve Fairchild, there has been increased carbide dumping, biota disturbances, and other damage. Apparently ther has been some trespassing through the Root Entrance. The necessity of a gate was considered, the Forest Service will provide the financial backing to such a venture if the WR provides the manpower. Hugh has for some reason eagerly agreed to look into the problem.

X LILBURN CAVE

Last, but not easiest, was discussion of the touchy situation surrounding the management of Lilburn Cave in Kings Canyon National Park. Tom Mathey opened Pandora's Box by requesting an inquisition into the secretive affairs of Czar Stan Ulfeldt. Many people are unhappy with the present restrictions, which allow only those involved in "scientifi research" to enter the cave. Tom claims that the only apparent activities in progress are photography, digging, and surveying, -hardly sufficient justification for the current exclusion policy. Dell Quick remarked that the Southern Cal Grotto has on file papers provided Stan by the Park Service for record of the scientific projects conducted at Lilburn. The Regional Council concluded that Stan Ulfeldt be contacted for a complete explanation of the Lilburn fiefdom and that an annual report from the NSS Research Advisory Committee be requested for offici al documentation of projects conducted at Lilburn.

The Regional Council meeting-goers dribbled out about 12:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
/s/ DD Chainey, Sect'y
Western Region

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REGIONAL MEMBERSHIP

Inserted by the last page of this issue are seperate Regional Membership and CAL CAVER subscription blanks. If you have not joined the Western Region, fill out the blank, sacrifice a 10¢ stamp, and mail it to the secretary who's name and address appears on the blank. Some people said they didn't want to cut up their copy of this publication to send in the blank. Now, that excuse is 'old hat'. If you've already paid your subscription to the CAL CAVER, check the appropriate spot and send it in -- no money necessary. Should you join, you'll get the CAL CAVER free. otherwise it'll cost you $2.

THE LILBURN PROJECT

AN OVERVIEW

BY STAN ULFELDT

The Lilburn research project has been organized to explore and study a cave system in a manner consistent with its fragile, non-renewable nature. It is conducted under the auspices of the National Park Service as Natural Science Research Project SKC-N-33, Lilburn Cave and the Karst of Redwood Canyon.

Because caves are relics of past epochs and many of their features are very delicate fossils that have been preserved by the stable cave environment, any entry, including that for scientific study, consumes some of their resources and irretrievably alters their environment and ecology to some extent. On the other hand, scientific study is necessary in order to gain the understanding required to responsibly manage our caves.

The thrust of the project is to aquire knowledge of a cave system's resources, environment and ecology and to assemble and publish this knowledge so that it may be applied by others in their management of our limited cave resources.

The project is divided into two parts, the development of basic information regarding the area and the pursuit and/or support of detailed research on specific problems which can be effectively studied in the Lilburn system. The compilation of basic information on the cave system and the surrounding karst includes: 1) the exploration and mapping of the cave and the surrounding surface area; 2) basic studies of the geological, hydrological, paleontological, archeological and biological resources of the cave system and 3) the identification of opportunities for specific research projects.

The generation of basic information must obviously precede detailed work and it is now well advanced. Mapping of the major portions of the cave and karst area is nearly complete. Field work on the geology, geomorphology and biology of the system has yielded a new species of troglobitic isopod and established the extension of the range of a sun spider.

Since 1969, a water flow recorder has been maintained at Big Spring, the resurgence of the cave stream. A micro-computer data logging and experiment control system is planned for installation in 1976. This system will be able to handle numerous diverse experiments and monitoring stations with specific programmed control for each. It will initially be used to monitor water flow and temperature. Instruments to measure conductivity, Ph, specific ions and turbidity will be added later.

The Lilburn Cave System is ideally suited as a "laboratory cave" because its entire watershed area is situated in an uninhabited and seldom visited section of Kings Canyon National Park. This provides the long term protection from human development that is essential for many types of research.

Lilburn Cave is the most significant of the Sierran caves. It contains examples of most of the features found in western caves and an active stream system with the only known ebb and flow spring that is accessible from inside the cave. This provides a unique opportunity for basic research into karst hydrology and hydrodynamics.

(continued)

Studies of the sediments in the cave by pollen analysis and paleomagnetic dating look promising. These studies will yield information on the chronology of cave development and the paleoclimatology of the area.

Lilburn cave is not only the largest known cave in California, it is also the most complex and contains areas which are among the most difficult and/or hazardous to enter. Exploration and survey work for scientific purposes, unlike sport caving, precludes the avoidance of such areas. Thus underground work for the Lilburn project not infrequently requires a much greater seriousness of approach on the part of the personnel involved than is common elswhere.

Unfortunately, caution and skill cannot eliminate the possibility of accident, only render it improbable. Steps therefore have been taken to prepare against such a contingency. Emergency planning and collection of the specialized equipment needed for cave rescue has been given priority over other tasks. A specialized underground evacuation stretcher more advanced than others used in America has been developed. It will be kept at the Grant Grove Ranger Station for use at Lilburn and other caves.

The Lilburn project provides many opportunities for individuals to contribute to our knowledge and understanding of caves, but the delicate nature of many cave features dictates the need to protect study areas from interference. Access to the cave is therefore necessarily restricted to those working on the project.

You may join the project as a researcher if you have the background and lab facilities to pursue a specific problem or you can become one of the "Lilburn Regulars" whose hard caving and dedication make the project go. The "Lilburn Regulars" are the backbone of the project, they put in countless cold, wet, muddy hours laying the groundwork that makes productive research possible.

If you are interested in the Lilburn project and would like to contribute, contact Stan Ulfeldt, Ellis Hedlund or Allen Meyer for further information. The project is sponsored by ISES, a non-profit organization, and sanctioned by the National Speleological Society.

Stan Ulfeldt
273 Mather St.
Oakland, CA 94611
(415)655-3213
Project Director
and
Northern California coordinator

Ellis Hedlund
228 N. San Antonio Ave.
Ontario, CA 91762
(714)986-8478
Southern California coordinator

Allen Meyer
31350 Tower Road
Visalia, CA 93277
(209)789-1312
Central California coordinator

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THE NYLON HIGHWAY is a very worthwhile publication which is put out by the Vertical Section of the NSS. The average issue is 20 pages in length and contains a treasury of vertical caving information: testing results, innovations, and safety information. Published at least twice yearly. Cost - $3/year. Write: NYLON HIGHWAY, Bruce Smith, Editor, 1745 Woodside Dr., Westland, MI 48185

SPELEOREFERENCE GUIDE TO MAGAZINES

BY HUGH BLANCHARD

This listing is suggested as a guide to those of you who frequent swap meets, used book stores, etc. This is a partial listing only, with emphasis on western caves. Acknowledgement is given to Chuck Pease's caving book catalogs from which many references were obtained.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
Sept. 1911 - "Peculiar Caves of Asia Minor"
Apr. 1919 - "The Cave-Dwellers of Asia Minor"
Jan. 1924 - "A Visit to Carlsbad Caverns"
Mar. 1924 - "Craters of the Moon"
Aug. 1924 - "Discovering the Oldest Statues in the World" -- Casteret
Sept. 1925 - "Carlsbad Caverns"
July 1946 - "Mystery Mammals of the Twilight" -- Griffin
Feb. 1947 - "On the Trail of the Venta Man"
Dec. 1948 - "Lascaux Cave" -- Casteret
Mar. 1951 - "The Caves of the Thousand Buddhas"
Mar. 1953 - "Probing Ice Caves of the Pyrenees" -- Casteret
May 1953 - "India's Sculptured Temple Caves"
Oct. 1953 - "Carlsbad Caverns in Color"
Oct. 1956 - "Life 8000 Years Ago Uncovered in Alabama Cave"
Oct. 1957 - "Gypsy Cave Dwellers of Andalusia"
Mar. 1958 - "Russell Cave"
Jan. 1959 - "Dzibilchaltun" & "Up From the Well of Time"
June 1964 - "Exploring American Caves" (best Geographic cave item)
Feb. 1965 - "Birds that See in the Dark With Their Ears"
Sept. 1970 - "Diving Into the Blue Holes of the Bahamas"

ARIZONA HIGHWAYS
Mar. 1947 - Full page color photo of Colossal Cave, AZ.
June 1951 - "Black Gold" -- guano mining in Grand Canyon
May 1955 - Story of Ventana Cave, AZ.
Jan. 1956 - Story and photos on Colossal Cave
July 1958 - "Last Stand of the Ground Sloth" -- Rampart Cave, AZ.
Feb. 1959 - Article on Skeleton Cave, AZ.
Sept. 1960 - Full page color photo of Colossal Cave
Oct. 1965 - Article on Grand Canyon Caverns
Sept. 1966 - "Arizona's Underground Wonderland" -- story and photos
(Best article ever published on Arizona caves)

NATIONAL PARKS MAGAZINE
Oct. 1969 - "The Paradise Ice Caves" -- Halliday & Anderson
June 1971 - "Wind Cave National Park
Jan. 1972 - "The Desert Pupfish" -- Devil's Hole, NV.
June 1972 - "Carlsbad Back Country"
Aug. 1972 - "Jewel Cave, South Dakota"
Jan. 1973 - "Into Mammoth Cave the Hard Way" -- Crowther
June 1974 - "New Cave, Carlsbad National Park"

DESERT MAGAZINE
Dec. 1938 - "Lehman Caves and area"
Mar. 1939 - "They Guard the Caves in Providence Mts." (Mitchell Caverns)
Apr. 1940 - "Man and Beast in Gypsum Cave" (Nevada) Harrington

(continued)

DESERT MAGAZINE, continued
Feb. 1941 - "Ancient Hunters of the Nevada Desert" -- Lovelock Cave
Feb. 1942 - "Tropical Corals in a Desert Cavern" -- Mitchell Caverns
& "We Found the Sheephole Palms" -- Grotto Canyon Caves, CA.
Nov. 1942 - "Cave of the Giant Sloth" -- Rampart Cave, AZ.
May 1943 - "Adventure in a Nevada Cave" -- Smith Creek Cave, NV.
Feb. 1945 - "Nevada's Salt Cave Mystery" -- (Harrington)
Dec. 1945 - "Adventure with a Mummy" -- Eagle Canyon Cave, TX.
Aug. 1949 - "Underground Voyage in the Nevada Desert" -- Cave Creek Cav
Nov. 1951 - "Cave of the Crystal Snowbanks" -- Titus Canyon Cave
Jan. 1952 - "We Found the Lost Indian Cave of the San Marines"
(small shelter cave in the Los Angeles County)
Dec. 1955 - "We Explored the Winding Stair Cave" -- (Halliday)
Feb. 1962 - "Caving Enters Its Golden Era" -- (caving in general with several references to the Southern Cal Grotto; caving cover)
July 1965 - "The Painted Caves of Baja"
Jan. 1970 - "Exploring Nevada's Gypsum Cavern"

Finally, discover the intellectual roots of Frank Binney's Inside Earth magazine. Eight issues of Cave Carson Inside Earth comic books. All are Superman DC National Comics but some are in the Showcase Series and others are in the Brave and the Bold Series. Showcase Nos. 48, 49, and 52; Brave and the Bold Nos. 31, 32, 33, 40, and 41. Published 1960 through 1964.

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BIG STREAM CAVE, continued from page 78
Yancey to dub it 'The'Incredible Shrinking Pit'), and another 15' to a very steep talus slope. This led down to a further 20' drop, another steep descent and suddenly it was recognizable --- the upper end of Big Stream! We had descended 220' from the surface, increasing the depth to 910' and making it by far the deepest cave in California and fourth deepest in the U.S.

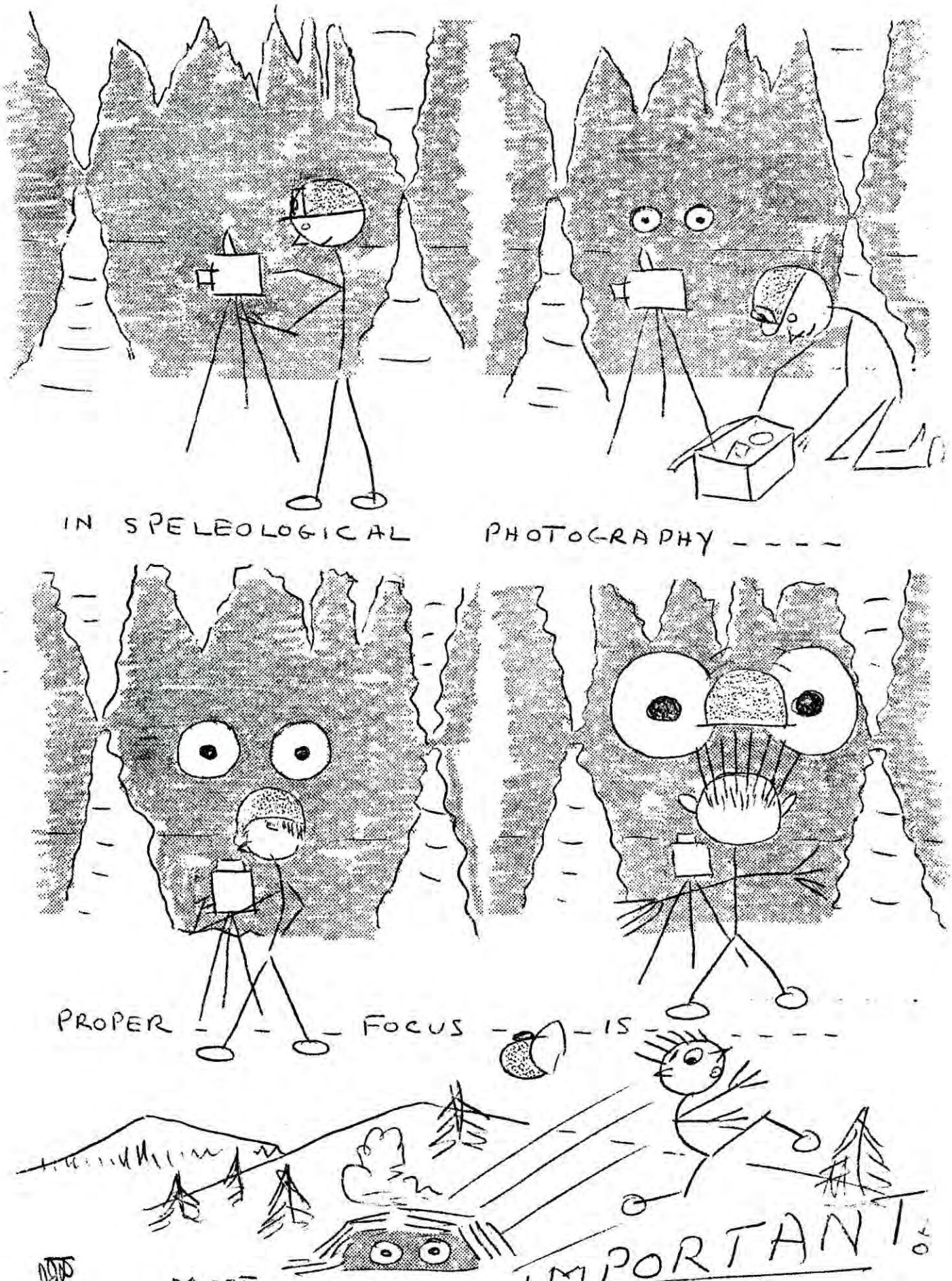
The following day, Bill Devereaux dropped the pit Jim and I had found at the start of the season, the pit which had started this whole fantastic sequence of events. His 230' rope, tied right at the pit's edge with 15' of it used in the anchor, was found on Bill's 'first descent' to just reach the bottom. We mappers came to refer to this as Immaculate Shaft, stimulated by Bill's enthusiastic description of this well formed pit. Bill wanted to name it NEAT! Pit because that's about all we could get out of him for three days after he came out! Checking the recordsreveals that this is the deepest freefall pit on the Pacific Coast and heading towards the Continental Divide I only know of Sparking Pit, Calif. (185'), Baker Shaft, Idaho (195'), and Dante's Descent of about 300'.that are comparable.

The following day it snowed --- and the day after that also ....

But next year .....

(Ed. note - Since this was written, Big Stream has been pushed to a new depth of 1066' -- look out Neff Canyon, you've held the record long enough!)

(Text and all maps are reprinted from THE UNDERGROUND EXPRESS with permission from Steve Knutson and the Willamette Valley Grotto.)


IN SPELEOLOGICAL PHOTOGRAPHY ----
PROPER - - - FOCUS - - IS - - - - -
MOST IMPORTANT

MORLEY HARDAKER ON

PHOTOGRAPHY

THEORIES ON FOCUSING

OR

HOW TO GET THE MOSTEST OUT OF YOUR FOCUS

Focusing a camera would seem like a simple procedure: yet there are people who have trouble focusing in daylight conditions, let alone trying to focus on something in the limited lighting conditions of a cave. This text will present some hints which will be new to you or will jog your memories into thinking about things you may already know but may be forgetting to put to use. As most of the ideas contained here apply to areas where there is often more than one subject and thus having a great depth of field, let me remind you of one basic rule: If your subject is just one particular thing, by all means focus on it unless it is to be purposely out of focus.

Although this article is not intended to be a text on the merits of different focusing systems, a few comments on equipment might be useful to those who are thinking of purchasing equipment for use in cave photography.

Because of the Frenzel or Mico Prisim focusing devices which are standard equipment on most of the cameras available today, one should seriously consider getting a camera with interchangeable viewing screens. The reason being that most of these prismatic type finders are useless in low level lighting conditions, and also when used with telephoto lenses. True, they create a brighter viewing screen, but the shimmer produced by the prismatic screen (which clears up when your subject is in focus), can not be seen in low light levels, nor does it clear completely when used with telephoto lenses.

My own personal preference is a plain ground glass. However, a ground glass with a split image range finder type center is also popular, particularly with people who wear glasses. I have found this split image finder useful myself (on occasions) for outdoor photography, but in cave photography, where sharp edges on which to focus the split image on are rare, the split image obstructs the already small lighted area usually available to focus on. This is just my opinion. I mention it just to suggest you try different systems under darkened conditions, and buy what you like best. So much for systems. Lets get on to focusing practices.

When focusing on subjects with depth to them, such as a room or small grotto in a cave, a point within that area has to be selected to focus on. The common practice is to focus 1/3 of the way into the depth of your subject, as a lens can retain sharpness on the far side of the focal point twice as far as it can on the near side. This basi rule is good except that sometimes confusion arises as to what near

(continued)

and far points should be used to obtain this one third focus rule. So let's appreach the situation in a little different manor, this being a "zone focusing" method.

Let me introduce a heavy optical word here, Hyperfocal Distance: this being distance from the optical center of the camera lens to the closest point in acceptable sharp focus when the lens is focused at infinity. This distance is controlled by two factors: the focal length of the lens and the aperture opening (f/stop). As the lens is focused closer than infinity, this hyperfocal point moves closer also and a point is reached where the focus starts falling off on the far side. This has been the scientific way to explain "depth of field" and the area within this depth of field is the "zone of focus".

Under daylight conditions this zone of focus can be determined by pressing the depth of field preview botton (on SLR type cameras) which allows one to view his scene through the viewfinder whth the aperture closed down to where it has been set for the correct exposure. This allows you to visually determine your depth of field. In caves where one barely has enough light to even focus with, and on rangefinder cameras where one can not view through the lens, this method is impossible.

There is another way, much more compatable to working in caves, and the only way on a rangefinder type camera. This is to use the depth of field markings that are on most lens barrels. These indicator markings are often over looked, underused, or not understood. If you are one of those who are unfamiliar with these scales, why not get your camera out now and take a good look at them. So that you may use these to your fullest advantage, here is a refesher course.

These markings are adjacent to your footage scale and are on both sides of the footage indicator mark. This scale is marked in f/stop numbers. A typical example is shown in Fig. 1 on page 93 The maximum and minimum distances are given for any chosen f/stop, by reading the footage scale at the f/stops calibrations. For example, in Fig. 1a: when focused at 15 ft., an f/stop of 5.6 will give you acceptable focus from 7½ ft. to 45 ft. or at f/11, acceptable focus would be from 5½ ft. to beyond infinity (∞).

The "Zone Focus" system is to simply match, as close as possible, the near and far points of your subject with the zone of focus given on your lens barrel. As the distance your zone of focus covers is controlled by what f/stop you can use, which in turn is controlled by the size flash unit you have, there will be many times when you can not contain all of your subject with different focus requirements. In Fig. 2a, on page 94 , the subject matter is spread over 11 ft. with the closest speleothem being 9 ft. away from the camera. Lets look at these set ups more closely. First, realize that our f/stop is governed by the film speed and light output combination that is available and depth of field varies depending on the focal length of the lenses. For this discussion, lets assume we have a calculated exposure using an aperture of f/11 and we are using the 28mm lens which has the scale reproduced in Fig. 1. You might also want to take these situations and apply them using your own camera lenses.

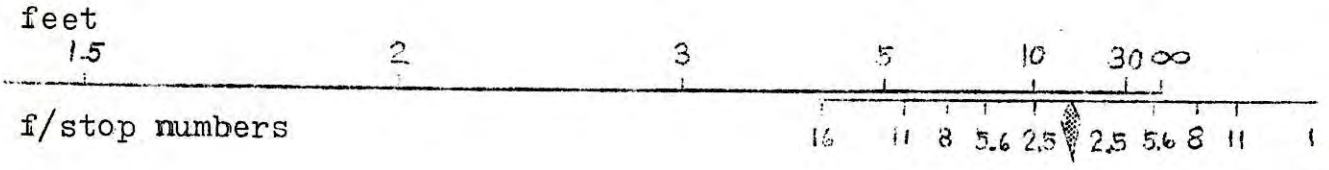
In Fig. 2a, (the far wall being about 20 ft. from the camera) most would instintively focus on the most prominate object, in this

(continued)

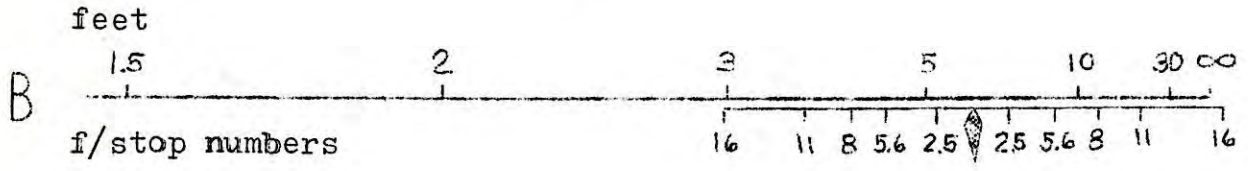
FIG. 1

Depth of field scales reproduced from a Vivatar 28mm lens (35mm camera)

A



B



Cut out the scale below on the dotted lines to use as a sliding indicator scale for Fig. 1.

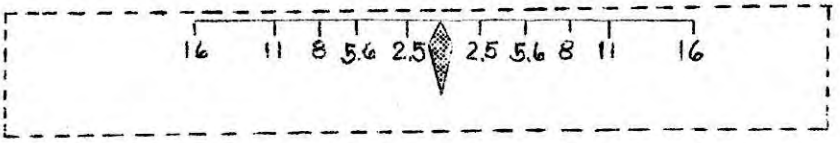
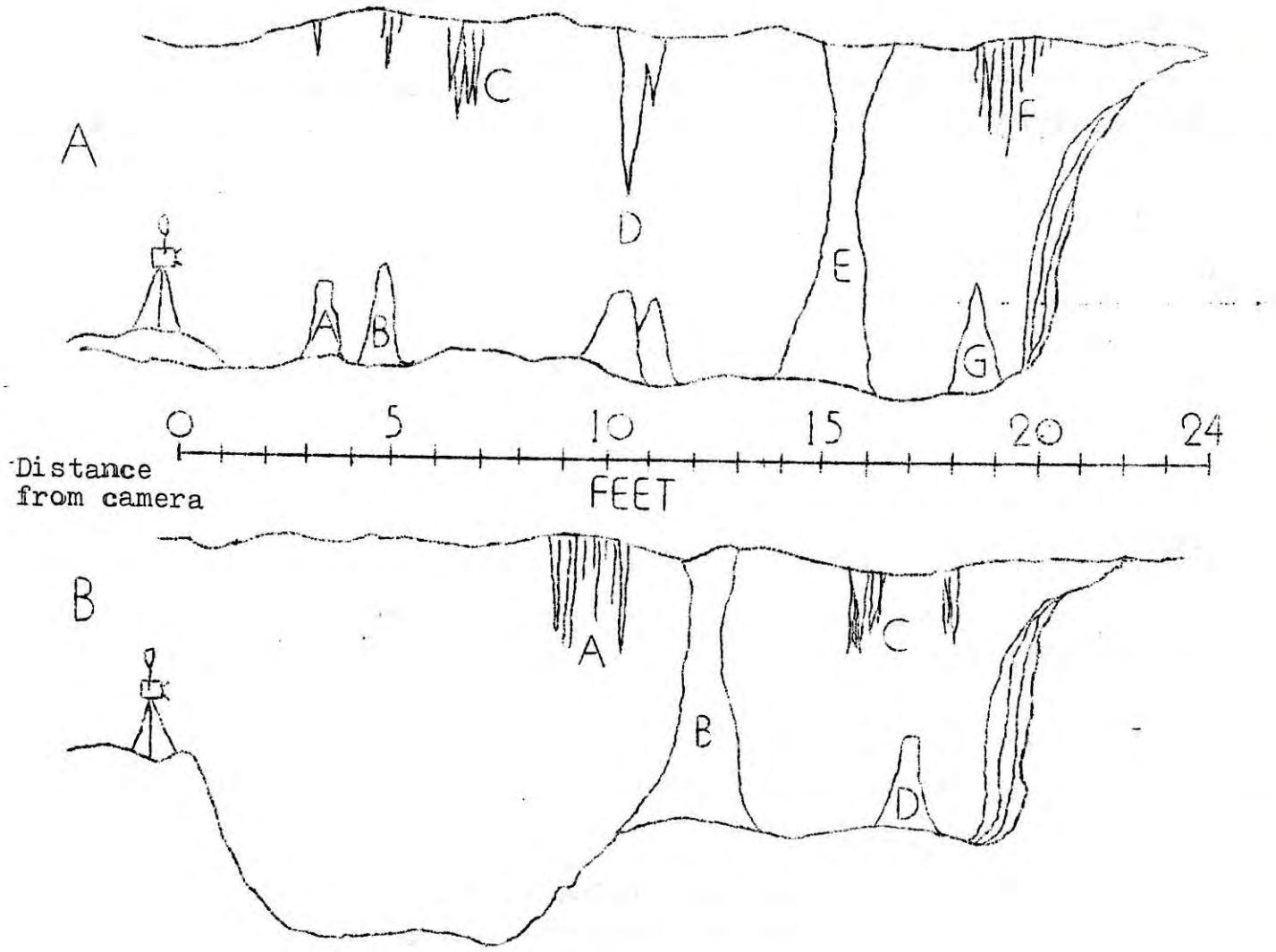


FIG. 2

A cave room showing two different depths of formation spread to encompass in a focal zone.



case the column (E) in the center of the room (15 ft. away from the camera). This would be fine if this column was the sole subject in our photograph, but remember we want a good shot of the entire room. To focus on column E, one would be focusing 2/3 of the way into the subject. Remember the rule is 1/3 of the way into the subject. This situation also creates a great waste of focus. Focus is wasted even in daylight conditions whenever the infinity mark (∞), or the farthest point to be focused on (in the case of Fig. 2a, 20 ft.) lies between the f/stop indicator and the footage indicator arrow. This wasted focus is created only when the foreground of your composition is out of focus and can be improved by making a focus adjustment. In our example (Fig. 2a) we have focused on the column and our camera aperture is at f/11. Now look at fig. 1a and note that when focused at 15 ft., we have in focus from about 5½ ft. to beyond infinity, leaving speleothems A and B (Fig. 2a) out of focus and C almost in focus. If we shift our focus as in Fig. 1b, moving the far f/11 indicator down to 20 ft. (the distance to the end of the room) we increase focus in the foreground down to 3½ft. This brings speleothems B and C into focus and A almost in focus. If an aperture of f/16 could be utilized here, the whole room could be brought into focus with some to spare.

In Fig. 2a, it is much easier to obtain good focus because there is not the close foreground to contend with. The closest part of the subject is 9 ft. away from the camera and the end of the room is still only 20 ft. away from the camera, so the depth of field here only has to encompass 11 ft. Using the sliding Depth of Field Indicator provided on page93, one can see that an aperture of less than f/5.6 could be utilized just by doing away with that 6 ft. of foreground. While good focus in Fig. 2b was easy to obtain with the 28mm lens, using a normal 50mm lens (which will have a narrower depth of field) would present the same problems as the 28mm lens had in Fig. 2a.

When one can not keep his whole scene in focus at the aperture he is working with, he will have to sacrifice focus somewhere. Unless the major part of your subject is at the far end on the room, it is best to sacrifice there as it will be the darker portion of your scene, possibly occupying less area in your composition and loss of focus in the background would not be as much and would be less noticeable than would the loss of focus in the foreground.

The previous discussion is just to show how the depth of field scales can be used. In actual use you will find you can sometimes gain focus over a good number of feet and other times you will find the focal gain is not worth while if you get any gain at all. How much you get of course depends on the various factors involved: lens; aperture; distance to be covered vs. distance from camera; etc.

If you still can not achieve the depth of field you need by this method, a few other ways are available, but that requires the camera be mounted on a tripod. First, assuming you have f/stops left, utilize a smaller aperture to increase focus by using the open flash method and shooting multiple flashes to build up the light intensity to correct for the aperture you are using. More on how to do this in a future article on electronic flashes.

Another trick that can sometimes be used when photographing large areas and using different flash positions to light up different

(continued on page 103)

RESCUE? BULLSHIT! BY DON DAVISON J

Few grottos are directing efforts towards developing personnel co petency in cave rescue. Too often, practice rescues are only basic; involving passage in no manner complex or difficult. Situations far underground and behind multiple ascents, descents, climbs, and crawls are briefly considered and then dismissed. The logistics of a major multi-squad relief effort, demanding rapid and continuous activity over a period of 12-14 hours, are never considered. A 12 hour mock rescue would define the limits of individual human endurance in a real manner and might actually humble with reality those forever stating their grotto's rescue capabilities. But, they might have to miss dinner or tax their flabby bodies.

Go tackle a cave (with one 70' drop, climbs, and straddle pits) that requires the use of a half mile of rope to rescue a stretcher case only 800 feet underground. Fail, but learn! Don't even tackle the tightest crawl problem that you know of in a popular cave, but rescue over the other difficult physical obstacles you can find: tight drops; long distance crawls and sloping passage; straddle pits and chimneys. Don't throw in sub-freezing weather; snow; ice; freezing rain; or flood Make it easy!

Your rescue call comes in after you have already been caving all day. Now pick your body off the floor, move accurately and think straight for the next six strenuous hours. Only four men can be gathered for a rescue effort. The team moves through difficult trunk, 3/4 of a mile underground, and finds that the initial evaluation of th situation is far too optimistic. How many members of your grotto coul competently solo to the entrance? Or would your leader, with the situation demanding that he, with his medical abilities (how many members of your grotto are trained at the level of Emergency Medical Technicia or above?) and two others remain with the injured parties, be the only one capable of the feat? Rescue? Bullshit!

This brings us to the purpose of this article: Good cavers are made, not born! You can walk in Mammoth's trunk passage all your life and still get psyched at a tight crawl. You might never know a single knot, or know how to belay correctly, behave at the edge of a drop, use verticle gear, chimney, climb a ladder, drive bolts, cave dive, or know anything about exposure, jumars fouling in mud, or.... For we learn by doing. You can't know what endurance is until you press its mental limits. You cannot learn to think and climb until you accept the challang and maybe take a few falls.

An individual who thinks that a "Super-Caver" is any guy who can cover 400' of rope in under 10 minutes is pitifully naive. But too many cavers think that they are great and can handle anything: Without knowing #1 about hard caving realities. This is where the accidents happen. Rescue is fine, but only by striving to make yourself into an all-round experienced, competent, physically fit, thinking caver can you reduce your chance of being an accident. That's the key to the whole idea of rescue---Preventing the Accident!

There are idiots who try to do a 500' pit without gloves and have

(continued on page 104)

Grotto News

Several (quite a few) Grottos are lacking correspondents to fill in the blanks in this "Grotto News" section. They are: Great Basin, Oregon, San Diego, San Jauquin Valley (Is this grotto still in existance?), Sierra Mojave, Southern Cal, and Southern Nevada. Unless this section gets some support from ALL Grottos in the Western Region, this may be its dying act.

SAN FRANCISCO BAY CHAPTER

Trips of the last few months have been to Winding Stair, Soldier's McLeans, various Stanislaus holes, caves near Baker, NV. and the best trip of all - a trip to Windeler's. Thanks Diablo, it was great! Truely the Queen of the Mother Lode caves.

We are all recovering from the convention. Poor Bruce is off in Alaska, he got tired of "Have we broken even?"

The July meeting was held at the Parker's place in nairobiland. A great time was had by all. Jerry Neuman came but wouldn't compete in the speleothon.

A tip to all carbide cavers -- nickel-plated Justrite bottoms can be had for $3 each. All funds go to the Grass Valley Mining Museum at the old North Star Powerhouse. Your loyal correspondent here purchased several and they're going fast!

At the Regional, Bill Chainey led 13 people into Post Office Cave and only managed to bring out 9.

Also, the SFBC is considering chartering a raft down the Colorado River next summer if we can get the people. The cost is relative to the number of people signed up. This trip would be for about 10-12 days through the Grand Canyon. Since we charter the trip, anyone who goes can have a say in the flexibility and itinerary. The cost will be in the neighborhood of $400 and will include food (Each or group price? Ed.). As the time is coming up fast, anyone interested must contact me by Oct. 25, 1975. We will then decide which 2 weeks suit the most number of people.

--Russ Pennell, SFBC
595 Diamond St.
San Francisco, CA 94114

DIABLO GROTTO

The Diablo Grotto has continued to be active since the last publication. They were involved in numerous trips up and down the state. At the National Convention, various members of Diablo were in fulldress, winning one of seven awards for 100% NSS membership. Had two exciting trips for out-of-staters and the Southern Cal Grotto to Windeler during the convention. The group was instrumental in sponsoring the Regional at Lava Bed's National Monument, which proved to be quite successful. Several members have participated in survey trips to the Marble Mountains Wilderness where they have really been 'turned on'.

--Ernie Coffman, DG

OUR READERS WRITE:

MORE ON MINERAL KING FROM A COPY OF A LETTER TO ALLEN MEYER (SENT TO CAL CAVER BY ELLIS HEDLUND)

Thank you for your letter supporting the enlargement of the Sequoia National Park to include the Mineral King Valley.

I am enclosing a copy of my bill, HR 6882, which now has 67 cosponsors including a majority of the California delegation. Congressman Roy Taylor, chairman of the Subcommittee on National Parks and Recreation is also a cosponsor and has assured me that he will do everything possible to hold a hearing on the bill this year. As you may know, the bill has been introduced several times in past years by various Congremen, but it has never before had a hearing.

Your continued support will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
/s/ George Miller, Congressman
7th District, California

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MORE ABOUT FRIENDS OF THE RIVER

I want to call to the attention of the Western Region the fact that Friends of the River is still alive and living in California. I am the Editor of a newsletter to be coming out shortly. Basically, National Friends of the Rivers, Inc. will work to provide constructive criticisms and alternatives to future and present water projects. Our point of emphasis is the great need for more citizen participation in government and we hope to provide this through fact gathering, lobbying and generally providing a focus for input towards the planning of water projects.

We need help, anyone interested in more information or wanting to help should write to: National Friends of the River, Inc., 1176 Emerso St., Palo Alto, CA 94301 or call (415)324-1470.

Thanks,
/s/ Russell J. Pennell
Editor, NFOR NEWS

"The ill-intentioned always fall short of achieving their purpose."
Kahlil Gibran

LETTERS, continued

THE FOLLOWING IS A LETTER WRITTEN TO STAN ULFELDT REGARDING THE LILBURN PROJECT

Dear Stan,

The Western Region, by unanimous vote at its June meeting in Frogtown (10 of the 13 grottos being present), has directed me as secretary to inquire into the present status and management policies of the Lilburn Cave research project in Redwood Canyon, Kings Canyon National Park. The vote was taken as the result of spirited discussion in which the following statements were made and the following questions were raised.

Western Region members stated that they understood that ISES, with the endorsement of the National Speleological Society and the National Park Service, had established the Lilburn project to promote scientific research. They further commented that scientific projects, to date, seem to have been limited to speculations and current activities seem to have been restricted to surveying and digging. Several members of the Western Region stated that aside from two brief papers given by Bruce Rogers, no scientific material has been published since ISES acquired control of the cave. The Western Region members request that you clarify the present purpose, policy, and membership of ISES and that you enumerate the scientific projects that have been accomplished at Lilburn, the present scientific projects being pursued, and the future scientific projects planned.

Several of the Western Region members are concerned with the lack of safety precautions taken at the current dig site. In view of the near fatal accident of several years ago, the Regional Council would appreciate your explanation on the matter.

Western Region members expressed considerable dissatisfaction with the current management of Lilburn Cave. The policies concerning admission were judged to be arbitrary and unfair, being the subjective decisions of a single individual, rather than the consensus of a representative body. Western Region members have asked that you clearly define your rules and procedures for obtaining access to the cave.

Please address your written response to me prior to September 5, 1975 as both this letter and your reply will be published in the next edition of the CALIFORNIA CAVER. The members of the Western Region urge you to attend the annual meeting this Labor Day Weekend at Lava Beds National Monument for further consideration of this matter,

Yours very truly,
/s/ DD Chainey, Secretary
WESTERN REGION, NSS

Ed. note -- Stan's written reply appears on page 86 of this issue. At the Labor Day Regional, Stan gave a very informative program complete with slides, maps and recorder tapes. At the business meeting, he answered all the questions from the members whom were present.

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Recent Donations

Dell Talent, Steve Knutson, Mike & Lynn Sims -- 1 lb. ink, mimeo ink pads, 2 reams paper, 2 quires of stencils
Bill Besse -- $15.00 Jerry Sanders -- misc. office supplies

FALLING

BY MIKE QUIGLEY

HEIM'S REMARKS OF FATAL FALLS

What would your innermost feelings be if confronted by imminent death? What is it like to fall off a cliff, or to be struck by bullets in wartime?

Through the years much has been discussed in literature, i. biographical experiences and in story telling about these intensely personal experiences. Yet little has been done within the scientific community to explain, for the benefit of self understanding, what it is like to face death, suddenly and without warning.

The entertainment industry has traditionally portrayed luckless catastrophy victims as undergoing their final moments on earth in screams of anguish, fear and desperation. We have come to accept this as a normal reaction to mortal incidents. What really happens, in most cases, is just the opposite.

One of the few and perhaps most objective and thorough studies on actual near-death experiences took place before the turn of the century by a noted Swiss geologist, Albert von St. Gallen Heim. His findings were reported in a 3,800 word treatise entitled "Notizen uber den Tod durch Absturz" (Remarks on Fatal Falls), which was published in the Yearbook of the Swiss Alpine Club in 1892. Heim's research remains a basis from which further studies of this phenomena have begun.

Heim gathered his material from experiences of survivors of falls in the Alps. These he compared with the experiences of other catastrophy survivors such as soldiers wounded in battle, drowning victims, survivors of railroad accidents and persons who survived death while performing their jobs.

He concluded from his research that all final experiences are nearly the same irrespective of the type of catastrophy face by the victim. He wrote: "In nearly 95% of the victims there occurred, independent of the degree of education, thoroughly similar phenomena experienced with only slight differences. In practically all individuals who faced death through accidental falls a similar mental state developed. It represented quite a different state than that experienced in the face of less suddenl occurring nortal dangers."

"It may be briefly characterized by the following way: no grief was felt nor was there paralyzing fright of the sort that can happen in instances of lesser danger. There was no anxiety, no trace of despair, no pain; but rather a calm seriousness, profound acceptance and a dominant mental quickness and sence of surety. Mental activity became enormous, rising to a hundredfold velocity or intensity. The relationship of events and their probable outcomes were overviewed with objective clarity. No confusion entered at all. Time became greatly expanded. The individual acted with accurate judgment of his situation. In many cases there followed a sudden review of the individual's past. And finally, the person falling often heard beautiful music and fell in a superbly blue heaven containing roseate cloudlets. Then consciousness was painlessly extinguished, usually at the moment of impact. And the impact was, at the most, heard but never painfully felt. Apparently hearing is the last of the

senses to be extinguished."

Heim emphasized that in all instances there was no pain. Victims of falls could hear, but not feel, their bones breaking upon impact. Men struck by bullets had not felt the bullet's entry. He attributes this phenomenon to "great mental excitement which causes a hypnosis that forces out pain sensations." Shock, in present day terminology.

Also, contrary to popular belief, a faller nearly always remains quiet during a fall. A scream is seldom beard and most fallers are totally conscious until the moment of violent impact.

Another phenomenon reported was the often superhuman and methodic attempts to save oneself, even by children as young as two years old. Heim presented an accident involving himself as an example of how preci and logical mental planning takes place within a time span of a few seconds: "In the summer of 1881 I fell between the front and rear wheel of a wagon traveling between Aosta and St. Remy and, for a fleeting moment, I was still able to hold on the edge of the wagon. The following series of thoughts went through my mind:

"I cannot manage to hold on until the horse comes to a stop. I must let go. I will fall on my back and the wheel will be unavoidable. I must fall upon my stomach and the wheel will pass over the backs of my legs. If I will tense the muscles, they will be a protective cushic for the bones. The pressure of the street will be somewhat less likely to break a bone than the pressure of the wheel. If I am able to turn myself to the left, then perhaps I can sufficiently draw back my left leg. On the other hand, turning to the right would, by the dimensions of the wagon, result in both legs being broken under it.

"Thereupon, through a jerk of my arm, I turned myself to the left, swung my left leg powerfully outward and simutaneously tensed my leg muscles to the limit of their strength. The wheel passed over my righ ham, and I came out of it with a slight bruise.

"I know quite clearly that I let myself fall only after these lightning fast, wholly percise reflections, which seemed to imprint themselves upon my brain."

In one case, an eight year old child who plunged of a precipitous 72 foot cliff thought only about whether he might lose the pocket knif that his father had given him as a present.

A climber who fell from the Karpfstock, and survived, reported that during his fall he objectively surveyed his situation, the future of his family and the arrangements which he had provided for their security "with a rapidity of which I had never before been capable."

Heim avoided attempting to explain the results of his findings and, instead, offered them as a consolation to the families of accident victims. One of his greatest satisfactions was when he imparted his observations to a mother whose two sons had recently lost their lives in falls.

He wrote: "They fell in a blue and roseate, magnificent heaven. Then everything was suddenly still. Unconsciousness occurred suddenly and without agony, and in this condition a few seconds and a millienium are just as long and just as short.

"My words were a comfort to her," he said. "Then she knew that

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TO REGISTER OR NOT TO REGISTER

BY NICK NOE

A few cavers I know have debated the virtues of just one more visit to their favorite cave and its possible consequences. The moment of truth between the caver and his conservation conscience may come when he realizes that "one more time" may become one time too many. This revelation too often occurs after the fact. A widening path, missing formations or Jeckyll turned to Hyde landowner are usually belated evidence of a worn-out welcome. Before the point-of-no-return is reached most of us can say no to another fix and survive cold turkey while we forget the name and location. Ah---if it were only that easy. Quicker than you can say Grunt-Moan-Blat and Wahhh, this country has a new citizen. The problem is that no quicker than you can read the will of your rich uncle, one dies off. Overpopulation. If accumulation of our citizenry continues at its present rate, there will be less and less room for your forgotten, nameless cave to hide itself.

Somewhere out there is this nebulous person who is not a caver (in the puritan sense of the word) and yet not a public. I like to call this person Nalph Raider because in this instance the consumers are the problem. Somehow Nalphie Baby finds the caves and wreaks havoc. It has to be Ol' Nalphie, cause you and I are too thoughtful to do all those nasty things. Right? So just who in hell is Ol' Nalphie? Is he the high school kid down the block? Howabout those freake college kids in the apartment across the street? Maybe the local scout troop sponsored by the church? Or could he be (shudder) that thing in the mirror?

After one discards the hard-core approaches such as a dynamite proof gate or sitting in the entrance with a shotgun, he must cope with the grim reality that he can't stop Nalphie until he finds the phone booth where he changes clothes. This is another way of saying get him where he hangs out. A cave register? Natch. You got to be crafty though. Nalph rips off cave registers too---the sly little devil. He must know that we're up to something. His anonymity is threatened (and besides ammo cans come in handy); but even if we collect all the names, will the CIA let us have the computer time to compile his true identity? No way! So you have Joe Honcho buried in a mountain of sign-in sheets; and herein lies the problem. There are two basic problems with a cave register program, namely: (a) keeping the damn things in the cave and in fairly good shape and (b) doing something coherent and intelligent with the names you miraculously collect.

So here comes the pitch. We (my honchos and I) need your help to do (a) and (b) good enough to nail Nalphie. Who knows, maybe we can help you reconcile another visit to your favorite cave. If all else fails, you can tie the end of the cave register chain to an arming pin which will detonate an atomic weapon cleverly cemented into the limestone wall. This may have an adverse effect on the cave; but it will conclusively prove if there are more caves than there are vandals. In the meantime, contact your local honcho with the code words "my warm body for the cause". He should reply with the code word "sucker". Californians should talk to Morley Hardaker, Oregonians to Rick Pope and Nevadians to Alvin McLane. They are the honchos for the respective states and can probably fill in all the grim details.

(continued on page 103, bottom)

FALLING - HEIM'S REMARKS (continued from page 101)
death for them had been very pleasant."

Author's Note: Present research into this subject is being conducted by Russell Noyes Jr., M.D. of the University of Iowa. He is interested in hearing about subjective experiences in mountaineering accidents, and can be contacted by writing to the Department of Psychiatry, University of Iowa, 500 Newton Road, Iowa City, Iowa 52242.

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PHOTOGRAPHY, continued from page 95

areas of the room, is to change focus to each area where the flash is directed. For example: focus on foreground and set off a flash to cover that area; then change focus to the central area and flash that section and so on. Some precautions are necessary here though. Try to direct your flash so that is does not strike areas that are out of focus at the time or fuzzey ghost halos may be created. Secondly, if you are trying to start your focusing scan too close to the camera, you may also get ghost halos, as the image size of an object will change between being in and out of focus. This effect would be created if the subject foreground is silhouetted by any flash set off in the background.

One last idea on focusing; wide angle lenses in particular are not always easy to focus, even in daylight conditions and you may find it to your advantage to estimate or measure the focusing distance, then set your lens to that distance. I like to focus on my subject and then read the footage scale as a double check. However, before using your lens's footage indicator in any manner, insure its accuracy by checking its scale against measured distances. This can be easily done with a 100 ft. tape measure and any object that is easy to focus on (a sign with sharp bold letters is good). Stretch your tape out from your focusing object and stand and focus at each distance marked on your lens. When you think you have perfect focus, look at your lens and see if the footage scale agrees with the measured distance on the tape at which you are standing. I have seen a good number of lenses that are not accurate (even good ones). A lens that has ever been dropped may well be out of calibration.

Ed. note - Morley will gladly answer questions created by his articles. If you have any or have a cave photography topic which you would like to know more about, you can send them to Morley c/o CAL CAVER.

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CAVE REGISTERS, continued from page 102
Actually, it may not be all that bad. If someone had told you as a chi that you would enjoy crawling through dark, muddy holes, what would you have thought? I shit you not. We honestly need your help. I feel like a child molester without a candy bar; but what kind of friend would I be if I told you that you would be getting taken for a ride with the promise of preserving the cavities you already have? So thi that one over while I figure out an antidote for warts. Damned frogs

RESCUE? BULLSHIT! continued from page 96
no idea about which end of the rack goes where. Tell some people about exposure in a given cave and they act as if they are perpetual heat machines. Others don't know that it is advisable to try to keep dry and that this may take some effort from their flabby bodies. A "vertical caver" (read it on the back of his helmet) rappels into a deep pit without checking the ledge; and a 4 pound rock is sitting loose at the lip, just 6" from the rope. FOR GOD'S SAKE THINK! Belayers belay and aren't sure if the rope they are holding goes directly to the climber or into a pile of extra rope.

Never cave alone. Never jump in a cave. Yes, parrot the phrases. Never think. Sit in your own little programmed box and grow mentally fat and content. Don't try rock climbing. Always be a follower. Yes, little Corporal; your General will always be healthy and capable of continuing. You will always be belayed. And if you have trouble on a thirty foot climb, while pushing a lead, or while 100' down a rope, have faith. You are not alone. For an Angel of Mercy will fly to you and wipe your nose and tie your shoes for you. WAKE UP, cavers! It's your ass in the cave. You've been alone since you came out of your mother's womb. It's you, your knowledge, and equipment against the environment. Wise up before somebody kills you.

(from THE TECH TROGLODYTE)

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A PAIR OF GIBB'S ASCENDERS A BLUEWATER RAPPEL RACK

The Northern Indiana Grotto is sponsoring a "Mail Order Raffel". The prizes will be a pair of Gibb's ascenders for first prize and a Bluewater Rappel Rack for second prize. Anyone may enter. Tickets cost $1 each or 2 for $1.50. One-third of the proceeds will be donated to the Indiana Cave Register Program. The drawing will be held at the end of October and you need not be present to win. The tickets are available from: NORTHERN INDIANA GROTTO, c/o R. P. Geer, 2812 Lexington Blvd., Mishawaka, IN. 46544.

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As erroneously reported on page 68 of this issue, the Diablo Grotto was <u>not</u> the only grotto in the Western Region to receive a 100% NSS certificate at this years convention. Congratulations to the <u>quiet</u> SAN DIEGO GROTTO. I do believe the Western Region was the only region with two grottos receiving this certificate.

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<u>DEADLINE</u> FOR THE NEXT CAL CAVER WILL BE <u>DECEMBER 15, 1975</u>. This Dec. issue may be a little late in arriving in your mailbox because of the Christmas mail crunch.

HOW FAR DOES IT GO? BY DICK LA FORGE

To be sung to the tune of "Everything's Up to Date in Kansas City" from the musical Oklahoma.

Once a caver began to write some verses
About our misadventures down below.
At first he found it difficult to find three words that rhyme,
But then he started fudging them and found he did just fine.
And now when he's not underground he does it all the time,
He went about as far as he could go,
He went about as far as he could go.

Deep in the earth it's cold and wet and clammy,
As dark above as it is dark below.
I just unscrewed my carbide can and dropped the rubber seal.
The thought of climbs by candlelight begins to make me feel
The chance of being here a while is absolutely real.
I've gone about as far as I can go, (repeat)

We got into this hole just after sunset.
It's all the same to us here down below.
A cave for active cavers, you have to climb and leap.
We were really moving fast, but now we only creep
And at the last recharging stop three of us fell asleep,
We've gone about as far as we can go, (repeat)

We found a brand new pit to drop this morning,
It falls away to unknown depth below.
My friends all egged me on - would you do it on a dare?
I am the least experienced, so it seems hardly fair
That now I'm at the end of rope, still way up in the air -
I've gone about as far as I can go, (repeat)

I think there's something wrong about my headlamp,
It should give something more than this faint glow.
I've got a lot of carbide, I could give you some for free.
It keeps on getting dimmer, though, and I can barely see.
If we don't find some water soon I'll have to use some pee-
It's gone about as far as it can go, (repeat)

Some guys from Canada down in Mexican jungle
Exploring virgin passage far below.
They carried in a pile of rope, about 200 pounds
And strung it out behind themselves, forever dropping down,
And still the river falls away, emitting thundrous sounds.
They've gone about as far as they can go, (repeat)

My friends are up ahead in walking passage,
They made it through a crawlway mighty low.
I guess I'd better follow them, or they will leave me here.
The cold, black walls press in, I feel that claustrophobic fear.
I'd rather climb back to the sun and have another beer,
I've gone about as far as I want to go, (repeat)

(continued)

One day I was climbing up some flowstone,
A crevasse 20 feet lay down below.
My buddy grabbed my muddy boot, he thought it was a rock.
We peeled away and slid on down, I knew we couldn't stop.
But when we hit it served him right - I landed on top,
We went about as far as we could go, (repeat)

Everything's up to date about my headlamp,
I tired of the carbide's feeble glow.
With my new electric pencil beam I really light the walls
And ceilings of the vast, majestic Guadelupe halls.
But I can't see down at my feet, I take a lot of falls,
I've gone about as far as I can go, (repeat)

Once there was a caver who delighted
In spreading cave locations to and fro.
He told the Junior Woodchucks, they went in on the run,
Discovered all the helectites and took out every one.
We visited this guy and left him hanging by his thumbs,
He went a little farther than he should go, (repeat)

Crawling behind my partner in a crawlway
Where no refreshing breezes ever blow,
All was fine until my nose discovered that he had
Begun to blow some wretched farts, it really made me mad.
I crept up close, took off my lamp, and burned his ass real bad,
He went about as fast as he could go, (repeat)

Once a fellow went to Golandrinas
To see if he could climb out from below.
He liked to look around him as he climbed the endless slope
Til at a rest his headlamp burned completely through the rope.
He had lots of time on his way down to call himself a dope.
He went about as far as he could go, (repeat)

Far from the entrance of an eastern cavern,
Exploring branching crawlways wide and low.
This junction room has seven crawls, and one of them must be
The one I came through but now not a difference can I see.
I'd better rest right here til inspiration comes to me,
I've gone about as far as I can go, (repeat)

One day I went caving with my girlfriend
To see if she would like it down below.
I thought, this decorated room will put her to the test,
But viewing the formations I decided she was best.
And then we started kissing and I think you know the rest -
We went about as far as we could go, (repeat)

What is it underground that makes us cavers
Obsessed about the caverns down below?
For bats and black and Hell and death are mankind's greatest fears
That constantly bedeviled him at least ten thousand years.
It seems to me that we must be particularly queer.
We've gone about as far as we can go,
We've gone about as far as we can go.