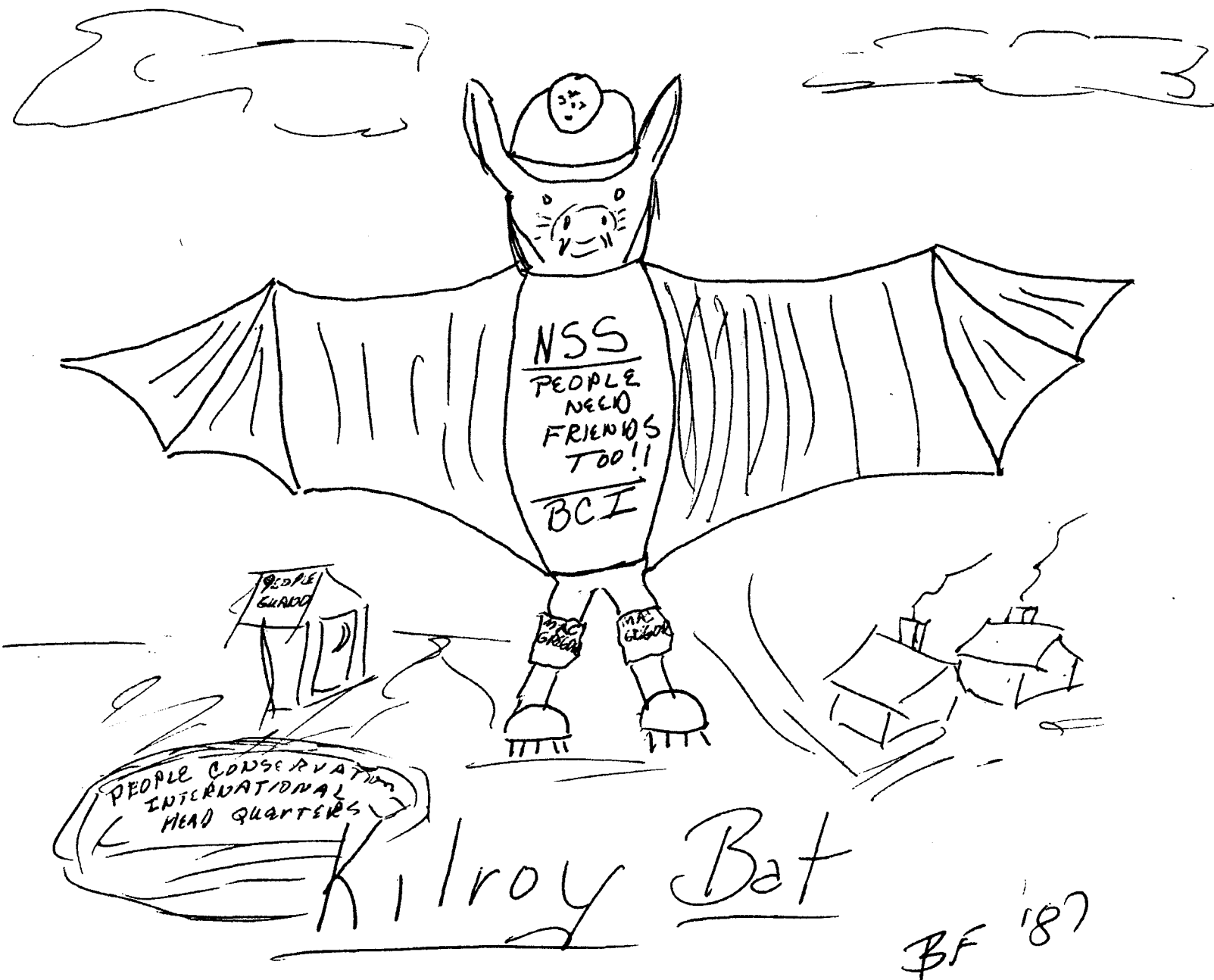


THE MAVERICK BULL

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 10

NOVEMBER 1987



THE MAVERICK BULL, is the monthly newsletter of THE MAVERICK GROTTTO, an internal organization of the National Speleological Society (NSS 6-322).

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The Editor invites all cavers to submit articles, news, maps, cartoons, art, and photographs. If the material is to be returned, a self-addressed, stamped envelope should accompany it. News items may be submitted on floppy diskettes in IBM compatible ASCII Text file format. Items should be of interest to cavers and their ilk, and be non-political (except cartoons of very good humor) in nature.

Internal organizations of the National Speleological Society may reprint any item (unless copyrights belong to author as will be stated in byline) first appearing in THE MAVERICK BULL, if proper credit is given and a complete copy of the publication is delivered to THE MAVERICK GROTTTO address at the time of publication. Other organizations should contact the grotto at the address herein.

EXCHANGES: THE MAVERICK BULL, will exchange newsletters with other grottos. Contact any officer.

COMPLIMENTARY NEWSLETTERS: THE MAVERICK GROTTTO will provide complimentary newsletters to persons or organizations considered to be Grotto friends. Grotto friends are persons or organizations who provide cave access (i.e. landowners) or otherwise provide assistance to cavers.

COMPLIMENTARY NEWSLETTERS: THE MAVERICK GROTTTO will provide three free issues to interested parties. At the end of this period the persons receiving the newsletter will have subscribed, become a Grotto member (or will be one soon) or complimentary newsletters will be suspended.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: Subscription Rate is \$10.00, per year for non-members.

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MEMBERSHIP POLICY: Any caver with interest, beliefs, and actions, consistent with the purposes of THE MAVERICK GROTTTO and the National Speleological society is eligible for membership.

Membership in the National Speleological Society is encouraged, but not mandatory except to hold office. Acceptance of new members is based on payment of dues and a mandatory three trip requirement with at least three different grotto members. These three members shall act as sponsors and at least one of these members will be required present at a Grotto Meeting where they may be voted in by a two-thirds majority vote of the members present.

Mavericks: 1) American pioneer who did not brand his calves, 2) An unbranded range animal, especially a calf, 3) the University of Texas, Arlington, football team.

MEETINGS: Meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month, at SMOKEY'S RIBS, at 5300 East Lancaster in the east central part of Fort Worth, Texas. Just short of one mile west of Loop 820. This is a central point in Tarrant County, and should be convenient to the mid-cities, Arlington, and Fort Worth! The time is 7:00 P.M., and the food is good. Go through the regular line for your grub and then come to the "party room" which we have reserved in back.

OFFICERS

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COVER: Last month's cover was such a surprise (even to me) I'll let it be again this month, since this is the first page which requires typesetting.

1987 CALENDAR

- Nov. 10; Maverick Grotto Meeting.
 Election of officers.
- Dec. 8; Maverick Grotto Meeting.
- Dec. 19; Annual Grotto Christmas Party
 Held at Danny and Jane
 Sherrod's home in Joshua, Tx.
 More details to come later.

OCTOBER MEETING

The September meeting of the MAVERICK GROTTTO, was held October 13, 1987, at SMOKEY'S RIBS, in East Fort Worth.

There was discussion at the meeting of which Region did THE MAVERICK GROTTTO, wish to be affiliated with, most affiliated with, etc. The grotto Secretary, having received a report from the newly elected Secretary/Treasurer of Southern Plains Region, Fanette Begley advised the Grotto of her findings. Southern Plains does not have group membership for Grottoes since they're already NSS affiliated. Southern Plains and Texas Speleological Association, has only individual membership. Regional affiliation really depends on what Regional activities the majority of Grotto Members choose to participate in. The MAVERICK GROTTTO, membership appears to participate in TSA, Southwestern Region, Sometimes SPR and even MVOR. It was decided to drop the issue and leave regional preferences up to the individual members.

Danny Sherrod was present at the meeting and verified he would once again host the Grotto Christmas Party at his home in Joshua. Danny had agreed to host the party previous to the last newsletter but many folks were happy to hear him personally say he'd host. How would you like to have a Christmas Party at your home as your annual White Elephant Gift.

Craig Tebbitt, having fulfilled a three trip requirement with the Grotto was elected into membership. Craig has been caving for a number of years primarily with TSA members, further south.

The decision on colors for the Grotto Logo, was put off until the November Meeting. It was

suggested that everyone (who has access) to a Zerox Machine, Zerox the front page of the September News Letter, color to taste and submit at the next meeting.

The program for the meeting was a slide presentation on Montgomery Cave, near Del Rio, presented by Craig Tebbitt. Slides of Fisher's Fissure were not available as reported in the last newsletter.

A surprise program appeared when Al Rehfeldt, showed up carrying an audio dubbed version of the River Styx Video, shot on the beginner trip to River Styx, last March.

NOVEMBER MEETING

Once again the Logo Artwork will be available for selection of colors and discussion of whether to make patches, decals, t-shirts or all of the above. It would be desirable for everyone who has access to a Zerox Machine, to copy the cover of the September Issue, color to taste and bring to the November Meeting.

The annual election of officers will take place at the November meeting. For anyone not caring for the way the Grotto is run, this is your golden opportunity to change it by running for office or nominating your favorite candidate. Joe Giddens has opted to retire from the office of Treasurer leaving that office open to all comers. The remaining officers will run again if someone will nominate them or no one else can be coerced into taking the positions.

The program for this meeting will be presented by Cynthia Hensen. The presentation will include a lecture and slides of "Rock Art" (Petroglyphs and Pictographs) occurring on the walls of caves and shelters. Subjects will include how dates are established, interpretation and rate of decomposition. There will be slides showing petroglyphs 40 years ago, 20 years ago and present day to show examples of decomposition with time.

This should be an interesting meeting, come on by.

CAVERS:

People who try to achieve a "lower" lifestyle.


 EDITORIAL

by Butch Fralia

The November meeting marks the "official" first anniversary of the MAVERICK organization although we won't be one year old as a Grotto, until January 31, 1988. We're one year old as a group interested in forming a Grotto and dedicated to the science and sport of caving.

In retrospect, it's been an exciting year if not sometimes hectic. Getting material for a newsletter was oftentimes a real pain (and occasionally still is). In October of last year, Donna Anderson, Corky Corcoran, Dale Ellison, Butch Fralia and Joe Giddens met to lay the ground work for what became the Maverick Grotto. We discussed the requirements and paperwork necessary to become an official Grotto (internal organization) of the National Speleological Society.

Poor Joe, he caught flak over dozens of things because people in other organizations seemed to think it was "his" Grotto. For awhile we were even referred to as "Joe's" Grotto. Joe was instrumental in assembling the first draft of our Constitution, which the fifteen who came to the first official meeting agreed upon and later decided they weren't quite satisfied over certain bylaws and later "blamed" Joe, for what? I'm still not sure to this day. Joe suddenly found himself a victim of the "kill the messenger, syndrome" (if you don't know what that is we'll discuss ancient history another time). Well, it's been a short and interesting year.

Joe Giddens, has been around caving for a long time (I was actually in a cave with him once) with many connections throughout the caving world. We teased him unmercifully about not being in caves and such but he was instrumental in forming the Grotto because of his familiarity with the red tape. He'd been involved in forming the Southern Plains Region and had copies of a number of NSS Constitutions for use as a model. Joe has professional organizational experience which was invaluable in forming the Grotto.

Joe was approached by other members of the five about forming the Grotto and he agreed to join in with his able assistance. At that first meeting, the five agreed on the format for the organization to be formed, then set out to form

that organization, it could have eventually been done without Joe but because of him it all happened a damn sight quicker.

Due to professional pressure and a tight schedule, Joe has opted to not run again for treasurer, yielding that position to someone else.

The point of this dissertation is that the MAVERICK GROTTTO, was formed, it has been a success, it's grown and it's still growing because of the dedication of a number of members. Joe has been instrumental in that success. It's high time to recognize Joe, for his important role in organizing the MAVERICK GROTTTO.

Thanks Joe, in looking back, regardless of what our ego's say (and what I said a couple of paragraphs ago); we probably "couldn't" have done it without you.

It's been a great year but it's time to look ahead to the coming year. We have had and will continue to have beginner trips for people wishing to try caving. If those we've taken out never come back again they will at least have a greater appreciation of caving, caves and cavers. We'll continue to attempt to keep caving out of the closet and educate the general public that caves are a part of the environment to be preserved, not destroyed and that spray paint isn't acceptable equipment for a caving pack. We're moving forward in becoming active in TSA, TCMA, Cave management projects. Hopefully our membership will come forward and attempt to give back to caving, some of what caving has given to them.

As a final comment; I recently heard the MAVERICK GROTTTO, referred to as the "renegade" Grotto. At first I was slightly miffed until I realized I've always been a sort of renegade. I'm proud to be called a renegade associated with a group of renegades. I just hope I'll never be part of the "rebels without a cause."


 CAVE BOOKS

I still have copies of "My Mommie Was A Caver," and the River Styx Book for sale to Grotto members (or guest, or anyone with money). I'll have a few at the next meeting.

GORMAN FALLS
by Butch Fralia

Being well known for sticking my foot in my mouth, I've done it again. At the TSA Kickapoo project I agreed to become co-chairman or coordinator for the Gorman Falls/Lemon Ranch, TCMA project. Terry Holtzinger (DFW) will be the field coordinator for ridge walking, surveying and etc. while I will be responsible for scheduling trips and filing reports with the state as well as keeping a running tally for what has been done versus what must be done next trip.

In an upcoming Texas Caver, I will be identified as the contact point for the Gorman Falls/Lemon Ranch project. There will be one work trip per month limited to 20 people. Rather than a Grotto month, the project will be considered TSA/TCMA and scheduling will be done on a first come first serve basis. A Grotto or person will call in stating they have 5 people wishing to attend Gorman on the next upcoming trip. They will get first call regardless of affiliation. The list will grow and when filled for that month, persons calling after that will get priority the following month or be placed on standby for the upcoming trip. This should be fair to everyone.

Texas Parks and Wildlife, has recently purchased property adjacent to Gorman Falls, previously known as the Lemon Ranch. The entire property will eventually become the Gorman Falls State Park. The Gorman Falls property has several caves with Gorman Falls being the largest. Lemon Ranch has at least 12 known caves which need to be relocated, surveyed and there is a possibility of more caves on both properties.

I've been assured that cavers are not expected to engage in "clean-up" work. Work projects will include ridgewalking, surveying, mapping and establishing topographic coordinates for all caves. This will be interesting work for all. After each weekend, the state will receive a progress report on work accomplished for the month.

I hope to establish a schedule with the State expanded over a six-month to one-year period, publish the schedule where everyone can plan their activities and get a weekend at Gorman. The way work projects go, cavers participate in organized projects on Saturday then Saturday night through Sunday have the run of the place

for their own personal "projects."

MAVERICK GROTTO ANNIVERSARY PARTY
by Butch Fralia

The weekend of October 2-4, 1987 saw the first annual anniversary celebration of the MAVERICK GROTTO, to celebrate one year of existence.

Friday night saw a nice crowd gather. Dale Ellison was there sporting the new camper cover for his pickup. He and Corky offered many pointed remarks about primitives having to put up tents. Neither of them had much trouble "enjoying" a tent when the first Port-a-Potty tent was installed. Jody Robertson, tiring of tent erection elected to sleep in his hot rod Mustang (Yes!! he actually drove it somewhere!!).

Saturday morning the crowd got large with Mark and Pam Porter, Chris Williams and daughter Jennifer, Ed Poynter and Daughter Christine, and especially the cooks, Mike Cagle and Steve Dalton. Donna started early by erecting the second Port-a-Potty tent. The tent was brand new making it's virgin appearance.

The crowd grew larger and Russell Hill, Cynthia and their new child arrived complete with saddle mule. Once the mule was unloaded, Shane the Wonder Dog grossed everyone out when he discovered a new form of munchies to which his mistress, Jennifer Fralia remarked "Yuk, no kissie for you tonight!". The Mule was soon saddled and the kids were occupied until after dark. The Mule seemed to enjoy the attention.

The elusive Sharon Lytle, made a brief appearance and helped Donna erect an obstacle course for Speleo-olympics which was never used.

Bobby Moore and friend Connie erected a portable sauna of his own design. The design apparently worked as Bobby, Connie, Mike, Steve, Chuck Cluck and Susan Penney put it to good use later in the evening.

As darkness drew near, the cooks set up shop and served a delicious meal of Fajita's accompanied by the many covered dishes brought by everyone.

The party continued on into the night and followed up into Sunday when the Fajita's left over from the previous evening were served for breakfast.

The first anniversary party was a gala event, tremendous success and great fun. About 25 people were able to attend. This should make a great annual event -- see you there next year.

SOUTHERN PLAINS REGION
FALL MEETING

by Fanette Begley and Wayne Walsh

Alabaster Caverns State Park (Oklahoma) and Park Ranger Chuck Orefice with SPR officers hosted the SPR during the weekend of September 25-27.

This was a combined cave cleanup, sport caving, and business meeting arranged and directed by SPR Chairperson Bruce Baker. Approximately 30 cavers plus children and pets converged at Alabaster Caverns for a very productive weekend under beautiful warm skies.

Bruce had arrived early on Friday to welcome cavers to the fall SPR at the group camping site in the canyon. Saturday morning, trip leaders were appointed and cavers signed up for work trips to clean out trash from the wild caves on the park property and from Alabaster. Over 100 man hours were accumulated during which a pick-up load of trash was removed from the caves. The clean-up project was efficiently organized and successful.

Quite a bit of excitement broke loose when we walked up on a huge rattler (4-1/2 feet) just about 8 feet from the swings on our return from the upper room. Wayne caught it with Chuck's snake catcher, and sadly Mr. Diamondback met his demise due to park rules.

Saturday evening was a treat for SPR members as Park Ranger Orefice and his wife, Connie, provided a hot dog cook-out for the tired and hungry cavers. A hearty thanks to Chuck for his Hospitality. After everyone had satisfied their hunger, Bruce called the business meeting to order.

The bat count with Dr. Caire is still on for this winter, probably January. Chuck thanked everyone for the clean-up work and the cave

rescue last month. He invited us back anytime. We voted him in as an honorary member and thanked him for the great supper. Also, we adopted Alabaster Caverns State Park and SPR will receive a plaque from the State under Oklahoma's Adopt-a-Park program.

New officers for 1988 are:

Gary Kowalsky -- Chairman
Terry Hollinger -- Vice Chairman
Fanette Begley -- Secretary Treasurer

A spring SPR was discussed with Kansas and NTSS considered NTSS was chosen. A loss for SPR was announced as Dave and Becky Jagnow and family, extensive contributors to regional caving, are moving to New Mexico.

A slide show was enjoyed, then we all geared up for the off trail-go-anywhere-Alabaster trip without visitor lights.

This was a week-end of good camaraderie and caving that benefited all who participated.

KICKAPOO WORK PROJECT
by Quinta Wilkinson

DATES: Oct. 16-18, 1987

DESTINATION: Kickapoo Caverns State Park.
Near Brackettville, Texas.

PERSONNEL: Corky Corcoran,
Butch Fralia,
Steve McKean,
Mark & Pam Porter,
Quinta Wilkinson.

The TCMA Kickapoo work project got off to a late start as usual. Talk about caves interspersed with lighting, video side side tracks, Okra and Chicken made the trip till 2:00 A.M. go really fast.

The registration was still open when we arrived. Lots of maps and aerial photos were on display -- Mike Walsh was doing his political work well, between Parks and Wildlife and us cavers. Porta Potty's were there and swimming was promised.

Tents were quickly thrown up and sleep interrupted by several cars arriving. One arrival, about 5:00 A.M. turned out to be Jim Goodbar and party.

Cavers were sent out in groups to ridge walk and six new caves were found. The bug guys were out collecting. The old farts group "I hear" found one of the caves. We ended up in Kickapoo, filming the scrub groups. This cave sure doesn't look like Texas. I thought we were in the Bustamonte or Carlesbad Caves. Big breakdown slabs led back to Columns and delicate helectites on the ceiling. This room had history in the 1880 graffiti. Then after Steve finished his shooting and let us move on we watched and filmed several mobile scrub machines at work. Jim Goodbar's new wife Andy, seemed to run, every time the camera came out unless she was busy with cleaning formations.

Kelly Bryan, Park Superintendent, treated us to lots of information on the plans for the Park and later showed us great helicopter photos he had taken of the Devils Sinkhole. This really nice person also is Superintendent of Kickapoo Caverns State Park and the Sinkhole. Rune Burnett, Cave Manager for T.P.W.D. really seems to care about the caves and wildlife. We were glad to see such nice people running this area. We have great hopes that our grandkids can see this area as we have been privileged to see it. The Sinkhole long a soft spot in my heart and this new caving area being opened in the future to the public should show the non-cavers why we need cave protection laws and how much we can learn from a closed ecological system.

This nice afternoon finally slowed down to "eat" about 4:00 P.M. and a quick dip in the stock tank for me. Steve slept and Butch "talked." Visiting and general cave bullshit made the evening a pleasure with a nice Bat flight out of Green Cave, highlighted with a snake attempting to eat bats flashing past him.

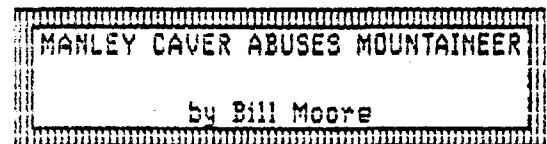
Lot's of ridge walkers went into Kickapoo Cave after dark to enjoy. Around 150 cavers really did show up from as far away as Houston and New Mexico. Camaraderie late into the evening spawned more cave talk and general info swapping.

Sunday, with breakfast and packing up finished, we four-wheeled over to Bee Cave, with only one

small hitch (pronounced ditch - Ed.). Steve's weight on the back and a few rocks under the tires moved us right along.

Bee Cave has nice honey combs hanging from the ceiling with their own small water supply dripping off calcite crystals. The Bees seem really pleased to have visitors poke into their neat holes and nooks and crannies. One possible lead was found and promised fun on a new work trip. This small vertical sink might go somewhere.

The drive home was chicken, cheese and Nutty Bars and cave stuff. Shane the Wonder dog wasn't along to eat his share so Steve took up the slack.



DATES: October 31, 1987

DESTINATION: Manley's Waterhole Cave,
Palo Pinto Co., Texas

PERSONNEL: Donna Anderson,
Bill Moore.

Editors Note: Bill Moore, an experienced rock climber, made this trip (his first) with Donna. In keeping with our policy of getting new folks to put their first impressions of caving in writing, Donna coerced him into providing this humorous record of the journey.

It started out as a simple and uneventful drive from Donna's house in a Sherman Tank replica known as B.U.R.T. The mountaineer sat quietly in his seat wondering why after so many years of climbing ever upward he had chosen now, of all times, to climb down.

After a quick clothes change Donna issued out the gear. Matches, Flashlight, 2 small baby bottles, plastic bags, and a helmet with flames belching out the front. After having the uses of the newly acquired equipment explained, they went looking for the large dark hole descending deep into the bowel, of this open prairie field.

TURNER FALLS TRIP

by Al Rehfeldt & Diana Andrews

DATES: November 1, 1987

DESTINATION: Turner Falls Caves,
Murrey Co. Oklahoma.

PERSONNEL: Donna Anderson,
Diana Andrews,
Stephanie Andrews,
Corky Corcoran,
Dale Ellison,
Bill Moore,
Al Rehfeldt,
Dennis Thompson,
Joshua Thompson.

It was a hazy morning when seven cavers met at Donna Anderson's around 10:00 O'clock. There was Bill Moore, Corky Corcoran, Dale Ellison, Al Rehfeldt, Stephanie and Diana Andrews.

After a slight delay in which Corky decided he needed not only to get gas but also to do minor auto maintenance on his Datsun pickup, the troop set out in three cars on their first destination of Ardmore, Oklahoma. The view of the air show at Carswell Air Force base, on the way out of town, was quite nice.

In Ardmore, they stopped to pick up two more cavers by the names of Dennis and Joshua Thompson. After a few words at Dennis's house, Donna showed how courageous she could be by holding Joshua's pet Bull Snake, and they were off to their final destination of Turner Falls.

The first cave the merry little troop went in was unnamed until later in the day. It is known to have bad air. Upon climbing to the first drop, the air was not breathable. After a discussion between Dennis and Corky, it was decided they would traverse the chimney passage. They came upon another 75 feet of passageway that contained breathable air. Bill Moore decided to join them in the Survey attempt. They later decided to call this cave "Aerial Cave," due to the chimney traverse passage.

After a brief discussion and rest, the Troop took a 20 minute hike to Cork Screw Cave. The entrance to this cave is basically a sink. Corky

After arriving at the mouth of the cave, there was a short explanation on the few possible problems; spiders, snakes, scorpions, birds, small animals and other things that go squeek in the night. With the trip now underway, the questions began to emerge, which way do we go?, will we get lost?, will we be back out today?, or tomorrow? The biggest question though was what was that noise? Donna went in first taking the lead so no one would get lost, taking time to point out the various formations. She explained the difference between the "tites" and the "mites" and pointed out several rimstone dams along with some very pretty but inedible popcorn. With the newly acquired knowledge, the mountaineer, now swimmer, took the lead and pressed on finding such things as super fine spider webs sparkling with tiny dew drops reflecting the dim lights worn on the cavers heads. There were areas of root growth which resembled the briar patch but without Brer-Rabbit. One area appeared to have slightly caved in due to the large amount of dirt on the floor and the molding roots. Amazed by the beauty and splendor of the cave they pressed on to the point of actually having to push their heads underwater to continue through the low openings. Then the worst part of the trip showed up, the end. It became very frustrating because the dim glow of the lanterns continued on through the low openings beckoning the cavers on to new adventures. After informing the die-hard mountaineer of the hazards of getting stuck, they both decided to head back to the entrance with as many questions as they started with; where did the cave continue to? Would they ever get past the small openings? and what did those bones belong to?

Even though they had crawled in through the same passages they were now leaving, it all seemed new because of the perspective. The grown man crawled on his stomach and watched as the veteran caver almost stood up and walked out of the cave. Had she also walked in behind him? This he will never know and does not want to.

At the exit a check was made again for unwanted guests finding a small frog which easily gave way to two wet, muddy and hungry cavers, even though Donna had bought along a small stash of M & M's and Pepsi. So once out and changed they headed home after a quick stop at a McDiner.

Corky free styled the wall in a spider fashion into the sink and the entrance of the cave. Dennis dropped a belay rope into the cave and young Joshua descended into the mouth of the cave. At that time Corky discovered there was bad air at the mouth of the cave. After the decision to pull out of this cave, was made a short lesson in ascending and descending by use of the belay rope. This was accomplished by instruction by Bill Moore, an expert climber and instructor, with the aid of Dennis Thompson, an experienced outdoorsman and caver. Stephanie let it be known that with her newly obtained knowledge of mountain climbing, she's now ready for Mount Everest.

Next was another 20 minute hike. This was to Wagon Wheel Cave (shown on the Turner Falls Park map as Crystal Cave). This was a visually stimulating cave, being a large circular entrance half way up a 200 ft rock bluff. The cave which is alive, had some nice formations in it. It tapered down to a crawl. A side with water of which Al decided to stop when Dale said he didn't think he could go any further. Upon hearing this, Donna's energizers got fired up and was behind Dale saying, "Wait a minute Dale, you can do it. Go for it!" "I want to go, you are in front of me, so keep going!" Dale, Donna, Bill, and Dennis continued as far as possible to observe the only bat in the cave while Al and Corky collected wildlife and plants.

After the exit, it was decided to go along the side of the bluff to another small unknown cave. This turned out, much to everyone's demise, to be full of cactus, the small stickery kind. After exiting along Cactus Crawl Cave, as it was later named, the troop hiked along the creek to the falls which was very pretty with moss. There, a few attempted to enter a small cave with water running out of it's mouth. After running into an obstruction, most of the adventurers backed out of the cave. Donna, wanting to show her serperb caving abilities, merely turned around in the cave and crawled out head first.

For the thrill of the trip, Donna went swimming in the falls' swimming hole. We were blessed with her version of the wet "T" shirt contest.

Upon climbing up the side of the falls to exit via the up river route, a small niche of a cave with a pretty view out a window, called Outlaw Cave was briefly visited.

Back at the car, while changing into dry clothes, Bill was assisted with a pair of wire cutters in an attempt to remove left overs from Cactus Crawl Cave. Donna refused assistance or help to remove cactus needles from other parts of her anatomy.

Upon returning to Ardmore, the troop assembled at Mazzio's Pizza for a farewell discussion and get together. A special thanks goes out to Tracy the waitress with the Krylon jeans.

An even larger special thanks from the Maverick Grotto goes out to Dennis Thompson, without whom this fine trip would not have been possible and also who had to cut short a hunting trip for wild boar with bow and arrow, in order to host this trip.

Snakebite, New Treatment

Editors note: This article was submitted by George Crosby, of Lake Charles, Louisiana. It is apparently a reprint but the source was not identified.

Snake bite, one of nature's most lethal injuries, can at last be rendered harmless almost instantly, even when venom is deep within our tissues. The treatment, according to "POSTGRADUATE MEDICINE" (82#1:250,'87), involves nothing more complicated than a brief high voltage electric shock applied locally over the part that has been bitten. The intensity and duration of the shocks have been like those used for a lawnmower's spark plug. Shock treatment, it was found, still worked even when it was not given until two hours after a bite and the victim's tissues had become painful and swollen. The bitten part (usually a limb) is electrically grounded as close to the bite as possible and the electric current is applied directly over the bite for 1-2 seconds, repeatedly at ten second intervals 4 or 5 times. Electricity makes Venom harmless by altering it physio-chemically, changes that were first seen when venom was being studied in the laboratory. Electric shock, it has been found, is good for other poisonous bites, including those of the scorpion and black ant as well. BECAUSE THERE IS THE POTENTIAL DANGER OF DISTURBING THE HEART RHYTHM, ETC., TREATMENT SUCH AS THIS SHOULD BE GIVEN ONLY BY THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN SPECIALLY TRAINED IN IT'S USE.

ANNUAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS --

NOVEMBER MEETING

THE MAVERICK GROTTO
P.O. BOX 170274
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