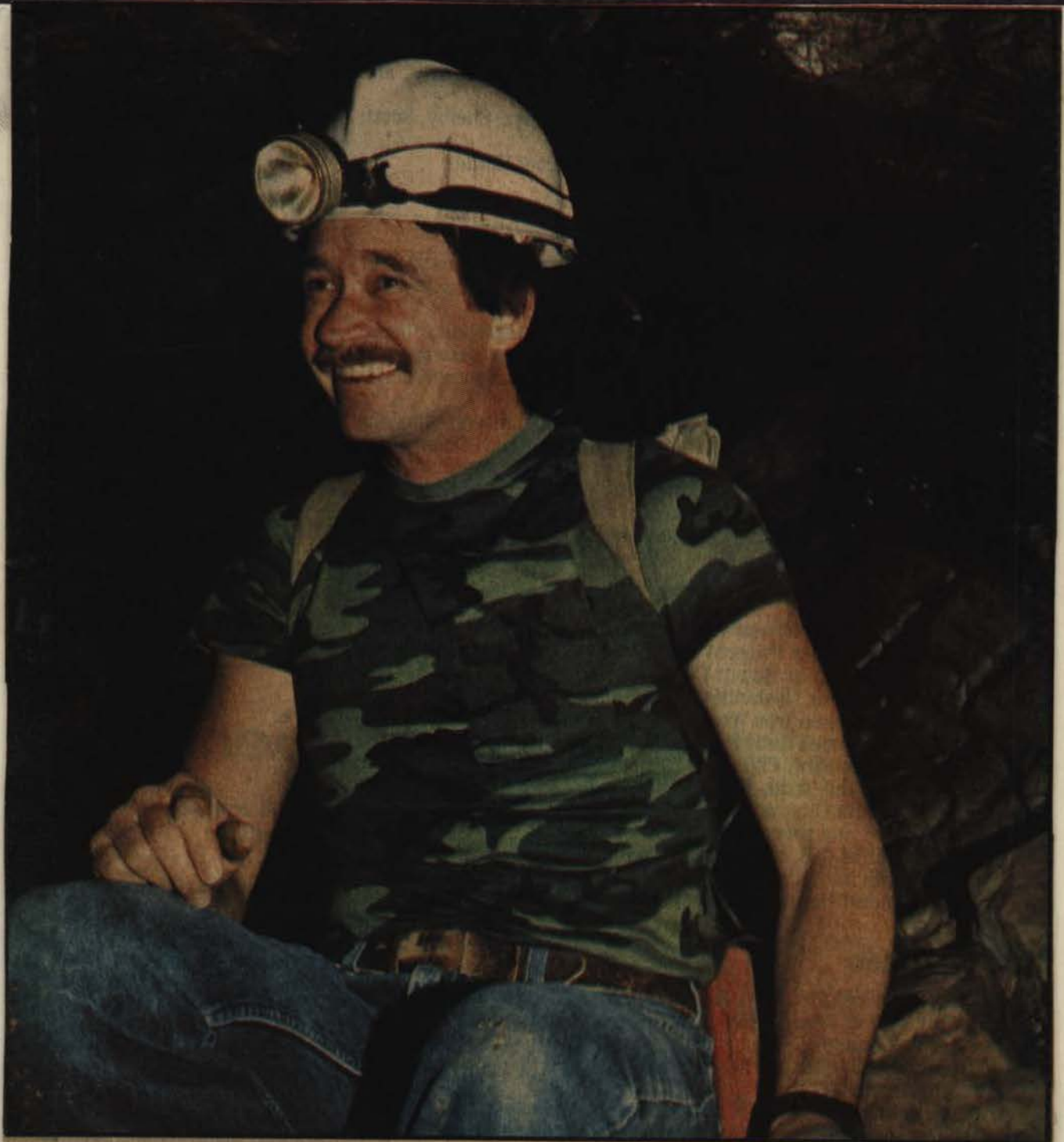


# THE MAVERICK BULL

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE MAVERICK GROTTO

VOLUME 3, NUMBER 4

APRIL 1988



## At home in caves

Staff photo/Sharon Burris

Caving is becoming a more popular sport in the area, and one of the most avid cavers, or spelunkers, is Dennis Thompson of Ardmore, shown here taking a breather in Hard Rock

Cave in Carter County. The limestone of the Arbuckle Mountains is laced with caves, most of which have yet to be discovered, spelunkers say. Story, Page 6A.

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.

PRINTING: This issue printed FREE by OILFIELD TRASH PRESS, INC., The Republic of Texas.

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.

MAVERICK: 1) American pioneer who did not brand his calves, 2) An unbranded range animal, especially a horse, but also applied to cattle, 3) the former University of Texas, Arlington, football team, 4) a member of a caving organization headquartered in Fort Worth, Texas.

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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817-346-2039

COVER: This month's cover photo of Dennis Thompson was copied from the front page of THE DAILY ARDMOREITE, Ardmore Ok.; corresponding article in this issue.

1988 CALENDAR

- Apr. 8-10; Gorman Falls Work Trip.
- Apr. 12; Maverick Grotto Meeting.
- Apr 30-May 1 TSA Convention, - Uvalde  
(80 miles west of San  
Antonio) -- Contact any  
officer for information.
- May 10; Maverick Grotto Meeting.
- May 13-15; Gorman Falls Work Trip.
- May 13-15; 2nd Annual Ozark Regional  
Caver's Convention sponsored  
by Ozark Highlands Grotto at  
Webster, Wright and Laclede  
Counties in SW Missouri.  
Contact Tom Morton,  
731 S. Market  
Springfield, Mo, 65806  
417/862-7370  
(or contact Dale Ellison  
817/472-0463)
- May 21-22 Boxley Bat Cave, 1st open  
Weekend, Boxley, Arkansas.
- June 6-10; NSS/CRF/NPS Carlsbad  
Caverns Restoration  
Summer Camp. Contact  
Dick Venters,  
410 Stallion Road  
Rio Honcho, NM, 87124  
505/892-7370
- June 10-12; Gorman Falls Work Trip.
- June 27-July 1; NSS Convention,  
Hot Springs, South Dakota.  
Contact John Sceltens,  
303 North River Street  
Hot Springs, SD 57747  
605/745-4366

EXCHANGES

Please direct all exchanges to the Editor,  
address on boiler plate.

CORRECTIONS TO ADDRESS LIST

Murphey's Law says that anything which can go wrong will. The Maverick Bull is no exception. Please make the following changes or additions to the address list, which appeared in last month's issue.

Donna Anderson's work phone number is 640-5090 Ext 205.

Fanette Begley and Ryan Taylor's address is Rt. 3, Box 535.

Joe Giddens work phone should not have been listed in the annual address list as he is no longer employed at that company.

Dennis Johnson, was voted into membership at the March meeting, his address is:

Dennis Johnson  
Murry Box 79B  
Ardmore, OK, 73401  
405/223-0830

MARCH MEETING

The March meeting of THE MAVERICK GROTTTO, was held at Smokey's Ribs, 5300 E. Lancaster on March 8, 1988.

Donna Anderson, chaired the meeting which had a nice turn out including our friends, Dawn Burow, Alvis Hill and Debra Morris, from Waco. Al Rehfeldt, reported that he has a potential source for T-shirts. The Patch Committee reported no results as of yet, still waiting for the address promised by Jay Jordan, for Taiwan patches at good prices.

Two new members were voted into membership, Bruce Anderson, Donna's husband and Dennis Johnson, of Ardmore.

Chris Williams, has emerged at last reporting he has finished his EMT training. He has agreed to present 10-20 minutes at each meeting for some time to come, covering emergency first aid for cavers. He states that cavers are sadly limited in their abilities to perform first aid in an emergency situation. He hopes to remedy that by presenting a short presentation at each meeting on a chosen subject. At the next meeting, he

will define a recommended first aid kit and accepted first aid for snake bite.

The main program consisted of the promotional slides for the NSS Convention. The convention will be held at Hot Springs, South Dakota, in the black hills. It looks like a great place to go, convention or not.

#### APRIL MEETING

The April meeting of THE MAVERICK GROTTO, will be held, April 10, 7:00 P.M., at Smokey's Ribs, 5300 E. Lancaster.

Chris Williams, oldtime caver and emergency medical technician, will present a 10-20 minute program on first aid specifically aimed at cavers. We as cavers know very little about first aid, yet we are usually in faraway places where the nearest medical help may be seventy miles (i.e. River Styx). Chris has agreed to put on a presentation at each meeting. His first presentation will be on a recommended first aid kit, and since the season is starting, proper treatment of insect and snake bites.

The program for the meeting will likely be a video tape of exploring caves via Kayaking. This sounds like a tremendous improvement after Manley's Waterhole.

Try to make this meeting and the next few after, in addition to being a lot of fun, it could save your life!!

#### **ELECTRICAL SHOCK TREATMENT FOR SNAKEBITE.**

An earlier newsletter had an article submitted by George Crosby about treating snakebite with electrical shock. George sent in another short blerp which I've lost in my infallible filing system (my kitchen table). In essence however, the article stated the potential treatment is likely being over promoted with lack of sufficient testing. Snakebite is relatively infrequent and each snake will inject different amounts of poison into it's victim. The treatment has not been verified on a victim receiving a large amount of venom. Until this treatment is proven, the standard anti-venom should be used.

#### EDITORIAL

by Butch Fralia

This issue of the Maverick Bull, highlights public service projects and newspaper articles, specifically involving Maverick Grotto members.

Sharron Burris, and sometimes her Husband Alan, have attended several cave trips with us in Oklahoma. They were at the last big Wild Woman trip before it was closed and recently Sharron attended a trip to Hardrock. Sharron is a reporter for THE DAILY ARDMOREITE, the Ardmore newspaper. She wrote a great article about caving and Dennis which is printed in this issue.

Sharron's article, highlights cavers not only as adventurers but as people who perform public service. This is exemplified by Keith Heuss, coming up from Austin to provide cave radio survey on Hardrock. This occurred Saturday, April 2. The survey was only semi-successful because the cave was partially flooded and the radio could not be transported to the desired location. The survey will be repeated about the last weekend of June.

A number of grotto members have participated in the Gorman Falls/Lemons Ranch project for Texas Parks and Wildlife Division. Mike Nichols, who writes a humor column for THE STAR TELEGRAM, attended one of these trips as a guest of David Finrock. He wrote a very amusing article which is reprinted in this issue.

It appeared there would be a skimpy newsletter this month when it all suddenly came together. There a plenty of interesting trip reports to fill the May issue. If Dennis can finish his description of Hardrock Cave, perhaps we'll have an Oklahoma edition which will include maps of Hardrock and Ariel caves and supporting descriptions along with trip reports.

#### **Hardrock Cave Trip by Quinta Wilkinson**

DATE: February 26, 1988

PERSONNEL: Dennis & Joshua Thompson  
Sharron Burris  
Bill Stephens  
Clay Wages  
Debbie Womack  
Quinta Wilkinson

This started when NTSS found the trip they had planned to make to Wild Woman was out. They asked either Fynette or Quinta to get them a trip some where in the Arbuckles. Dennis was contacted and as usual he was ready to go caving.

Bill, Clay, Debbie and I crowded in the extended cab 5-10, as other cars were out either because of repairs or low clearance, and headed out very nearly at the departure time of 7 am. This trip was fairly uneventful unless you call Debbie giving away pieces odd (venison jerky).

Dennis had ask Sharron Burris to join us as she was doing a trip and taking pictures of Dennis for an article. She was a nice addition to the trip.

When we arrived at Hardrock the gravel had moved down the waterfall area. This was taken as an indication the cave had moved water through in quantity again. The first sump was filled such that we had to quit there. As this was the first time the four from Wichita Falls had been here it was a real treat to find a cave of this size having real indications that more cave was in the offing.

The trip to ice cave was interesting as Clay could not get in the main part of the cave and Debbie having had a bit to much fun the night before had decided this cave was going to wait for another time. I decided to stay out with Debbie while Clay was attempting to force his way where he clearly was not going to fit.

This area reminds me of the Gorman Falls, Lemons Ranch area. The caves some times come in the oddest places. It is a real addition to caving and deserves quite a star on Dennis' helmet.

<p>UNDERGROUND MARVELS Caving becoming popular sport by Sharron Burris</p>
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EDITORS NOTE: The following article is reprinted from THE DAILY ARDMOREITE, Ardmore, OK, Sunday, February 28, 1988. Sharron wrote this article after the trip she attended with Dennis, Joshua, Quinta and the NTSS bunch. It's a nice article and earned Dennis a full color photo on the front page of the news paper which we plagiarized for our cover this month.

People in Southern Oklahoma have lots of activities available not everyone in the nation can enjoy, including sailing, boating, horseback riding, ultralight flying, or just getting outside and kickin' around.

But there's a unique breed of local residents who have more fun climbing into dark, dank recesses below the earth's crust, creeping into holes in the ground which have never been explored before.

And if there's an assortment of strange items to be found in the hole, like bats and spring-fed streams and water-worn bones and teeth, well, that's all the better.

They are called "cavers," or more ostentatiously, "spelunkers."

Dennis Thompson, an Ardmore city employee for about three years, is one of these thrill-seeking searchers of the unknown, and he feels very lucky living in an area as rich with caves as the Arbuckle Mountains.

Almost all area caves are on private property, unavailable to public sightseers. But members of the Maverick Grotto headquartered in Fort Worth, a branch of the National Speleological Society, have been helping out area ranchers while at the same time adding to their survey of local caves.

Thompson, a member of the group, said they have contacted by area property owners with caves on their land to find underground springs to supply water for livestock during summer droughts.

"Large sinkholes usually indicate large caves below them," Thompson said, "which usually means underground stream movements for ranchers."

Finding new caves and exploring and surveying them also allows Thompson and his son, Joshua, 9, to spend time together. Thompson, 37, has been caving since he was 16 and old enough to drive himself to the various locations he read about in the public library and heard about. Josh has already been caving five years, according to his dad. It's something that seems to get into a caver's blood, and it struck the youngster early.

"There's not many other things he'd rather do."

Thompson said of his son, who is probably the youngest member of the Maverick Grotto.

Other local cavers include Dennis Johnson, Joe Ben Pruitt, David Ruth, Mike Bray, John Pollock, Larry Gillespie and Steve Cook.

Thompson said the caves locally are in upper Arbuckle limestone, some of the oldest limestone in the world. Similar limestone, and likewise caves, are found in the Criner Hills and Wichita Mountains areas.

The largest local cave found and surveyed to date is Wild Woman Cave in Murray County. However, Thompson and other cavers are certain larger caves are just waiting to be discovered. One of those might be Hard Rock Cave in Carter County, if another entrance can be found into a second chamber, Thompson said.

Hard Rock is probably the largest cave found so far by Thompson, at 916 feet long and 81 feet deep.

Another favorite cave of true-hearted spelunkers is Mystic Cave, a public tourist site in the early 1900s. The remnants of the wood ladder leading into the cave and the metal boat are still present.

Mystic Cave is a water cave, and spelunkers wear wet-suits to traverse its course. One reason it was called Mystic may be due to the eery steam which floats along the top of the water, emitted by the warmth of Human bodies.

But the group of spelunkers isn't into caving just for fun. Caving can at times be dangerous, and the matter of conservation of the natural cave environment and fauna is always uppermost on their minds.

"The environment of a cave is very fragile," Thompson explained. "The creatures there live in total darkness."

Probably the most common, and most misunderstood, of cave dwellers are the bats, he said. Passing spelunkers are careful not to disturb hibernating bats during the winter. If awakened, the world's only flying mammals may not be able to return to hibernation and will starve to death.

Thompson is also concerned about another problem he has seen in the area.

"We see a lot of pollution going on in caves, people using them for trash dumps," he said. "People don't realize they are poisoning their own water supply."

He said trash dumped into caves almost inevitably is washed by rains into underground streams, which feed wells, above-ground creeks, and rivers.

Trash also destroys the inhabitants of the cave and can even endanger the life of a caver. Thompson said a friend was once temporarily blinded and crazed when he inhaled a gas formed by crude oil slushed into a cave by a nearby oil well.

Blundering sightseers who do not realize the significance of a cave are another major headache to spelunkers.

"So many people go into these caves without realizing how long it took these formations to form, and they break them and ruin something that took thousands of years to get there," Thompson said.

Members of the NSS not only help local property owners map out caves and find underground water supplies, they also offer volunteer labor to help local, state and federal park services and other entities explore caves on public property.

Local spelunkers will soon be working with Davis officials in surveying a newly found cave "which just opened up recently," Thompson said. Such unexpected findings are not unusual.

"After a big rain, things can change drastically," Thompson said. "All of the Arbuckle caves are young caves and are real active as far as drainage goes."

Essentially, that means caves are not the place in which to take shelter during heavy rains.

"The get washed out with about every rainstorm," Thompson said, which makes it difficult to survey some of the caves as far as ceiling to floor elevation goes. Each rainstorm may wash in as much as several feet of gravel, or wash some

away.

Thompson estimates about half the weekends of the year, he walks, swims, crawls, slithers, sidles and climbs through caves throughout the nation, including at regional and national spelunkers meetings.

Property owners who believe they have caves on their property and want the spelunkers society to survey them, or people who are interested in joining the local organization can contact Thompson after 5 p.m. and on the few weekends he is home by calling 226-3066.

One reason spelunking may be becoming more popular is the relatively little expense needed to get started. For most local caves, explorers need a head lamp, hard hat, climbing boots, gloves and knee-pads. For vertical caving, spelunkers need more complicated gear, estimated at about \$150, Thompson said.

GORMAN FALLS/LEMONS RANCH  
by Butch Fralia

As the Gorman Falls/Lemons Ranch project continues on, an all out effort is being made to surface survey all the cave locations found on the February trip as well as known caves. The problem is that in the process of surface surveying, we keep running up on more new caves that weren't found in February. In March seven new caves were found, five of which are in the 720 acre pasture number one, where there were already 35 known which we were trying to precisely locate.

Two new caves were located outside the pasture and three old caves which have been lost were found.

Interesting problems keep cropping up, we had a camping spot staked out and a group of State Senators, budget appropriation committee members came in and appropriated it. We've relocated to a more remote area. Trip reports have to be filed with the state outlining the work accomplished and locations of any new caves. Every time we find a new cave, it multiplies then moves to a new location. We've learned that if we tag it and drive a stake into it's heart, it can't move. Something still needs to be done about the birth control problem.

Gorman Creek Crevice, a cave located soon after the State bought the property has been surveyed for 476'. The cave is still going, blowing air, etc. but has become the traditional San Saba County bedding plane crawl. It's 30' wide and about 11" tall. The survey will be discontinued until land survey of the area can be completed. The cave was originally thought to be 200' long until a passage which was believed to pinch off (named don't go passage) turned out to be the main passage of the cave. Jarvis Tousek, believes the cave will continue in a bedding plane, and connect with Bustamonte by way of Fitton, Wild Woman then Carlesbad. If it don't get bigger soon, it'll need a smaller survey team.

The State requires release forms to work on the property. One release form filled out and notarized (we have our own notaries) is good for life. To date we've been remiss in complying with this requirement but will on all future trips. For a reward, anyone having completed 16 hours work at the park will be given a baseball cap which identifies them as an official TPWD volunteer. It may also entitle the wearer to vehicle access to areas designated for primitive hiking. If nothing else it will look good with a collection of cave paraphernalia.

This is a good public interest project that hopefully all Grotto members will take a weekend to participate in. The next Texas Caver will have articles about the project and how to get access. This will likely generate a full trip every month. Call early, get your reservations in.

FEELING UNDER THE WEATHER  
by Mike Nichols

EDITORS NOTE: Mike Nichols writes a humor column for THE FORT WORTH STAR TELEGRAM, morning edition. He attended the February Gorman Falls/Lemons Ranch work trip, and wrote the following article which is reprinted from THE FORT WORTH STAR TELEGRAM, morning edition, late February, 1988.

DEEP IN THE HEART OF TEXAS -- And I do mean deep, deep in the Hill Country, 80 feet deep in the ground, and knee-deep in mud that seems set on sucking our socks off.

We are 2,500 feet back into Gorman Falls Cave,

beside the Colorado River. Four-fifths of "we" are KXAS-TV meteorologist David Finrock; his wife Shari; and the Finrocks' friends, Pooch Amy and Teresa White -- all members in good standing of the National Speleological Association (a slight mis-statement -- Butch).

Not that there's a lot of good standing in this cave. More like good stooping, good walking on hands and knees, and good crawling on your belly while you develop a close personal relationship with bat guano.

Yes, this is where a meteorologist comes to get away from it all. There's no weather down her. Constant temperature, eternal darkness. No rain. No shine. No "warm today, with a 20-percent chance of scattered thunderstorms."

About all that falls from overhead here are pale cave crickets, "some locally severe."

Yet the lure of caving is easy to see, even in the dark. After all, the last frontiers -- where few have dared to go -- are the ocean floor, space and the subterranean world. And of course, Oprah Winfrey's refridgerator.

The advantages of being in a cave also are obvious; no phones, no freeways. And the odds are good that a Democratic presidential candidate won't burst in on you here, shaking hands and crooning; "Remember -- a vote for me ... is a vote for me" while his Secret Service agents surround a suspicious - looking stalactite and wrestle it to the floor.

And for the novice, there is much to learn in a dark cave. Such as the technical talk of spelunking; "concretions" and "CO2 Alley" and "Hey, someone sat on my Mars bar!"

You can also learn how loud the tail of a large economy-size rattlesnake sounds at a cave entrance. You learn how fast the 656 muscles of the human body, showing uncommon cooperation ("OK, all you quadriceps femoris, this is the brain. Get those legs moving pronto or it's our gluteus maximus for sure!"), can distance you from that sound.

And you learn that a cave is Mother Nature's Proving Ground for Phobias. You find out fast if you have a fear of feeling your way in the heavy-duty dark, or belly-crawling through tight

passageways while the person crawling along right behind you shines a carbide mining lantern up your pants cuff.

You begin to imagine what you'll do when you get out, such as taking off your muddy clothes, forming a conga line and dancing nekkid through a car wash. You also begin to imagine what you'd do if you didn't get out. What if nuclear war broke out up there, forcing you to remain down here forever?

We there are worse places to start a new civilization. This cave, although millions of years old, has been kept up well and is ready for immediate occupancy. It has water. It has high, domed stone rooms with fascinating formations, surreal textures, eerie shadows; scenes from a drunken Dali dream.

It's fully furnished with boulders, the floors are carpeted in deep-pile mud, the ceilings covered in glistening limestone. The decor is early "in the beginning...."

And with two couples, our population would grow. Shari -- a teacher -- could educate the children. (Shari: "And now students, I'll tell you a bit about what life was like up there. Can any of you guess what a 'Johnny Carson' was? He only came out at night." Student: "Teacher, what's a 'night'?")

Teresa -- a dental assistant -- could look after our teeth. Pooch -- a singer -- could keep up morale with original songs ("HmMMM. What rhymes with 'bat droppings'?")

I could print a newsletter on a cave wall: "Stalactite held for lunging at candidate (Turn to QUICK WITTED AGENT on Wall 2)."

And poor David -- in this weatherless world deep in the heart of Texas -- would be on unemployment.

SOUTHERN PLAINS REGIONAL  
by Donna Anderson

DATES: March 26-27, 1988

PERSONNEL: Bruce Anderson,  
Donna Anderson,  
Jody Robertson



Jody, Bruce and Donna arrived at Copper Breaks State Park, Friday evening about 11:00 P.M., quickly set up tents and joined the others at the campfire. We discussed the various offered Saturday - Pothooks, River Styx, and Beasley's.

The next morning Jody, Bruce, and Donna decided to go to Pothooks. On the ranch, Jody, Bruce, and Bill Stephens, our trip leader hiked around an area Bill had been wanting to check out. They found two openings which looked promising. Bill Kirchner drove up and we all proceeded to Pothooks. The cave is gypsum with borehole walking passage, a great deal of water with several very deep (20 feet) pools of water. Bill Stephens said all we had to do was keep near the wall where the water was shallow and we would have no trouble. That wasn't as easy as it sounds. The bank was slippery and sloped sharply. No matter how careful you were, you found yourself sliding towards the middle. Not knowing how close you were to the drop-offs made it rather exciting. It was also exciting when we had to hug the wall around a sharp bend where we could see the deep drop-off only inches away. The wall was smooth and the only handhold was a long arm reach away. We all made it without incident, however. Bill told us not to worry as we would not have to go back the same way as there was another exit up ahead.

Pictures were taken in the cave and at the exit. We hiked back to the trucks and changed into dry clothes. Bill Kirchner decided to do some more ridgewalking as the rest of us headed back to Copper Breaks. We had a good time and were glad for the opportunity to see Pothooks Cave.

MINERAL WELLS STATE PARK ROCK CLIMBING SESSION by Donna Anderson
--

DATE: March 19-20, 1988

PERSONNEL: Donna Anderson  
 Diana Andrews  
 Mike Cagle  
 Steve Dalton  
 Dave Milhollin  
 Bill Moore  
 Barb ?  
 Chris & Rey Perkins  
 Al Rehfeldt  
 Danny Sherrod

Bill, Barb, Rey, Chris and Donna left Friday evening for vertical instruction at Mineral Wells State Park. Upon arrival, we quickly set up tents as it was rather cold. George Dickle was there to help ward off the sub-freezing temperature. The next morning, we scraped ice off Bill's Tropper then had breakfast at McDonalds. On return, we stopped at Park Headquarters to sign rock climbing releases and pay for overnight camping. We learned we had camped in a day use area. Back at camp we moved camp per the ranger's instruction and by 9:30 were at the cliffs. Danny, Dave, Al, and Diana arrived shortly and we received instructions on tying single and double figure 8's, tying Swiss seat belts or swami belts from webbing, rigging points of anchor for the rope, rigging a belay rope, setting a prusik self belay, rappeling against a cliff, and a free rappel. On Donna's first rappel, she found a cave at the canyon bottom, not far from where the rope was rigged. Back to the truck for a mini mag, another rappel and she explored the cave. It went through the cliff (approximately 15 feet) and could have been done without a flashlight but the sight of cobwebs suggested a need to know exactly what one was putting their hands on. No formations were noted. Later, a tyrolean traverse was set up. We all enjoyed the traverse across the canyon. Bill then rigged it for a tyrolean traverse with a rappel from the traverse for which Donna was specifically chosen. It turned out to be a rather enjoyable and a definitely unique experience. A quick break for lunch and then more rappeling. Instruction on ascending was given. Mike and Steve joined us and practiced changing from descent to ascent on the rope. Al had brought a Stokes litter and instruction on rigging was given with Donna being tied into the litter.

Diana produced apple cupcakes made by her grandmother from fresh apples. The were delicious! As the sun was setting Al, Diana, Donna, Danny, and Dave set off for Ft. Worth.

The rest of the group stayed and camped at the park that night. Sunday morning there was more rappel practice. Bill also taught rock climbing techniques and they practiced belayed climbing on the cliffs.

Our thanks to Bill Moore for instructing our class. We learned a great deal and had a wonderful time in the process.

**THIS MONTH'S MEETING:**

**EMERGENCY FIRST AID FOR  
SNAKE BITE AND  
RECOMMENDED FIRST AID KIT  
FOR CAVERS!!!! THIS  
INFORMATION COULD SAVE  
YOUR LIFE !!!!!**

**THE MAVERICK GROTTO  
1208 DAN GOULD RD.  
ARLINGTON, TX, 76017**