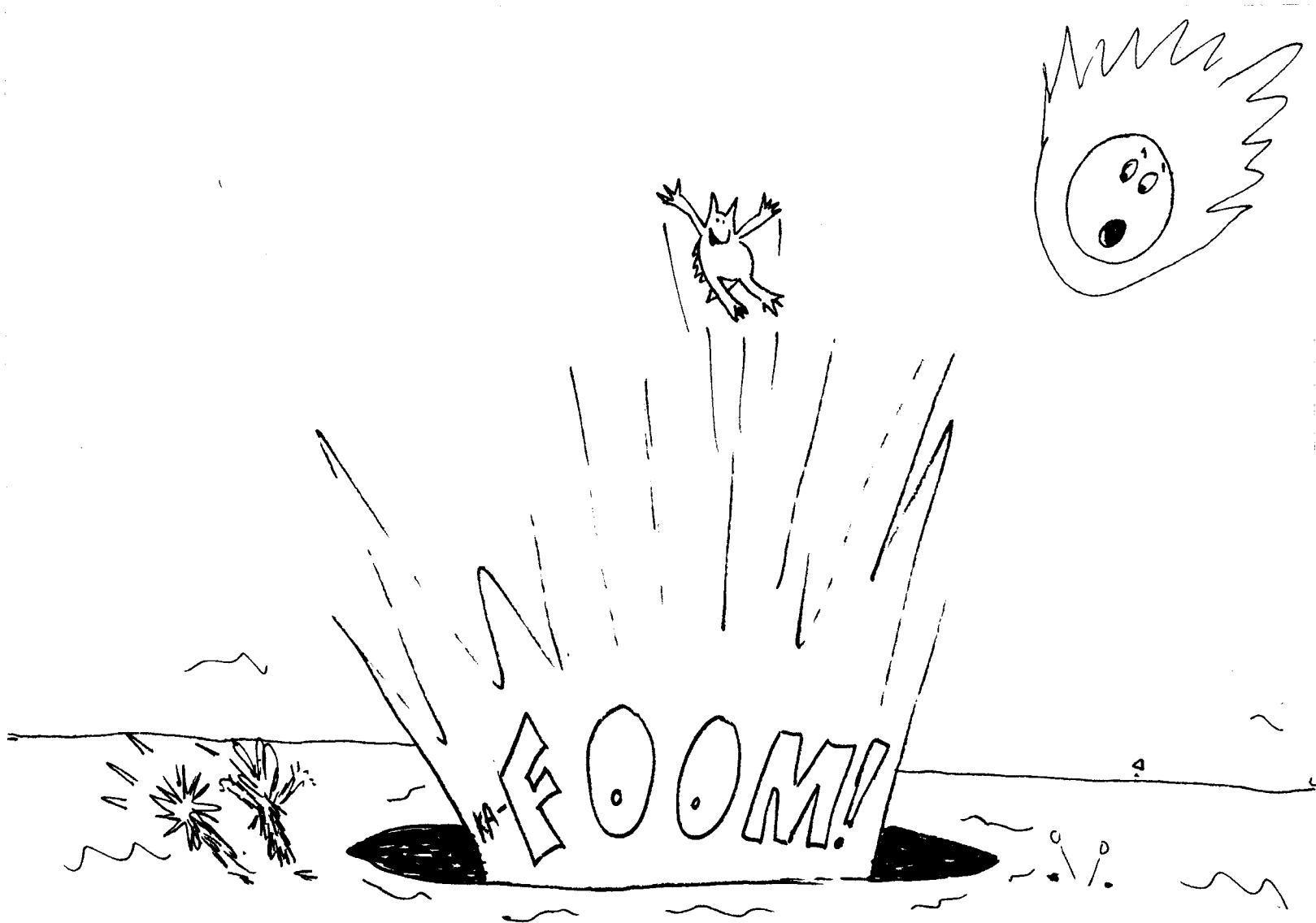


THE MAVERICK BULL

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
THE MAVERICK GROTTO

VOLUME 3, NUMBER 11

NOVEMBER 1988



HOOZATS EMERGENCE IS MARKED WITH A MINOR INCIDENT...
SO MUCH FOR PROVING THE EASTERN EXTENSION THEORY.

[Handwritten signature]

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 GROTTTO**, 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 **UNDERGROUND 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) 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

Chairman: Corky Corcoran
602 Rose
Denton, Texas, 76201

Vice-Chairman: Donna Anderson
504 Kimbrough
Fort Worth, Texas, 76108
817-246-6313

Treasurer: Dale Ellison
1208 Dan Gould Rd.
Arlington, Texas, 76017
817-473-0463

Editor/Secretary: Butch Fralia
3412 Walton Ave.
Fort Worth, Texas, 76133
817-346-2039

COVER: This months cover by Gregg Wolffarth, a non caving associate who volunteered to help us out. This artwork consists of a whole series of cartoons which will run through December 1988.

CALENDAR

Nov. 4-6; Second annual, Maverick Grotto anniversary party to be held at the M&W Ranch in Glen Rose Texas. The entry fees are \$4.00 per night per carload. It's the social event of the year, don't miss it.

Nov. 8; Maverick Grotto Meeting.

Nov. 11-13; Guads trip to Three Fingers and Virgin, contact Ed Poynter - 817/488-7619.

Nov. 11-13; Gorman Falls Work Trip.

Nov. 18-20; McKittrick Hill Trip, McKittrick, Sand and Endless Caves. Contact Donna Anderson.

Dec. 9-11; Gorman Falls Work Trip cancelled due to deer lottery, trips resume in January.

Dec. 10; Annual Christmas Party to be hosted once again by Danny and Jane Sherrod. More on this later.

Dec. 26-?; Possible Missouri Cave trip, contact Dale Ellison, 817/473-0463.

Oct. 1989; American Cave Management Symposium, Sponsored by TSA, TPWD, ACMA. To be held in New Braunfels, Texas.

MAVERICK GROTTTO PATCHES, AT LAST!!

The long awaited Maverick Grotto patches have arrived from Taiwan. They really look great after their long journey and deserve a resting place on your favorite cap, shirt or jacket.

The patches are available through Dale Ellison for \$3.00 each. Have your Cash, Check or Money Order ready, they'll be going fast!!!

OCTOBER MEETING

The October meeting of the MAVERICK GROTTTO was held at Smokey's Ribs, 5300 E. Lancaster on October 11, 1988.

The meeting was chaired by Vice-Chairman Donna Anderson.

The Annual Grotto Anniversary Party was discussed, a food list was passed around and a number of items were volunteered. Any one wishing to bring something can contact Bruce Anderson to get their name on the list and see what else may be needed. There will be directions and hopefully a map to get to the party in a later part of this issue.

Preliminary nominations for the '89 officers were made. See article later in this issue.

The Christmas Party was discussed and it was decided that this years party will be held December 10, once again at Danny and Jane Sherrod's house.

The program for the meeting was an excellent slide presentation by Ron Miller. Everyone enjoyed it immensely, thank's Ron.

OCTOBER MEETING - OLDTIMERS

A short meeting was held at Oldtimer's October 15. The meeting held in Butch Fralia's mobile field house (affectionately - most of the time - known as "Old Clunk") lasted approximately 15 minutes to allow members from remote places to attend their mandatory annual meeting.

NOVEMBER MEETING

The November meeting of the MAVERICK GROTTTO will be held at Smokey's Ribs, 5300 E. Lancaster on November 8, 1988.

Election of 1989 officers will be held. The nominees are listed in another article later in this issue. Please come and vote or nominate another candidate to vote for.

Woodrow Thomas will present a slide presentation on the Caves and Sinkholes of Kentucky. Woodrow and Janice are old metroplex cavers who relocated to the East, and now once again find themselves near the metroplex area. This has been promoted as an excellent presentation, don't miss it.

CANDIDATES FOR '89 OFFICERS

At the October meeting preliminary nominations for '89 officers were put before the meeting. This does not preclude other nominees from entering the race at the November meeting. The nominees thus far are:

Dale Ellison - Chairman
 Danny Sherrod - Vice-Chairman
 Teresa White - Treasurer
 David and Shari Finrock - Editor/Secretary

Please come and support your favorite candidate or provide your own nominee.

WHEAT LAMPS AND PARTS

An alternate source for Wheat Lamps and Parts - reportedly less expensive than other sources has been located, for further information contact:

National Mine Service Company
 Beckley, W. Va.
 304/253-7324

This company will accept orders by phone and ship COO.

TEXAS OLDTIMERS REUNION
by Butch Fralia

October 14-16, saw cavers from all over the state (and even farther) gather for camaraderie, fun, games and meetings. It was a great event for anyone who missed it. It was a great event for anyone who attended it.

Approximately 300 cavers were present to enjoy the festivities. Bob Liebman arrived with his mobile cave supply store and did a fantastic business. The speleo-olympics were great as usual with many entries into everything from the obstacle course to the sleeping bag contest.

For those who've never attended Old Timers, the sleeping bag contest is one of the more interesting events. It consists of a regulation size bag (not a real sleeping bag) in which some unfortunate is convinced to climb into. The object is to remove all clothes, place them outside the bag and then redress. The person accomplishing this task in the least amount of time, wins some wonderful prize such as a neckerchief or calendar at the awards ceremony. There's a double bag contest where man and wife (or some other close relationship -- at least close friends) enter and perform the same feat. This is a most interesting event assuming you're able to get a position observing from the top of the bag -- enough said?

The TSA Fall meeting was held and the attendees thought it would last forever. Many business items were discussed and TSA officers for 1989 were elected. Jack Ralph, Chairman '88 resigned and Joe Ivey is now Chairman for '89. Johanna Reese moved from the office of treasurer '88 to secretary '89. Allen Montenero, was elected as treasurer. There were so many candidates that the moment someone could be convinced to run for office, they were elected by acclamation (sound familiar?).

There was a fantastic supper held by the old time caving cooks who kept making aside comments about road kill. If it was road kill then a Gormet would have been proud to eat it. If it indeed was road kill, I'd like to see the road where all those boiled squid came from.

The evening award presentation ceremony saw the winners of the Speleo-olympics presented choice pieces of caving gear, neckerchiefs, etc. provided by TSA. There were drawings for door prizes, the items donated by various Grotto's and Bob & Bob. Maverick Grotto members present, took up a collection of \$20.00 for a gift certificate at Bob & Bob's. Following the award ceremony was a multimedia slide presentation on Mexican Caves featuring well known and not so well known Texas cavers at their best.

Peter Strickland's hot tub and Sauna were there for the enjoyment of all. Even those who didn't enter enjoyed watching participants get in and out.

Maverick Grotto members present were Bruce and Donna Anderson, Diana and Stephenie Andrews, George and Kay Crosby, Dale Ellison, Butch Fralia, Arlene Heintz, Keith and Christopher Heuss, David McClung, Ron Miller, Al Rehfeldt, Danny Sherrod, and Quinta Wilkinson. A great time was had by all.

EDITORIAL
by Butch Fralia

The constitution of the Maverick Grotto, states the newsletter shall be a monthly publication, non-political in nature. That seems to be a conflict with the material which periodically appears in the newsletter. Actually, it's very difficult to be totally non-political and oftentimes the newsletter is the best and maybe the only way to assure that all members and subscribers have opportunity to be aware of political matters which are of concern to them. Perhaps we need to redefine political and just say we keep our personal politics out of it.

In the past there've been many articles and editorials which could be construed as political yet the intention was to generate interest rather than call people to take sides in a political issue. This issue is definitely political at the state government level but is intended to be informative and hopefully generate interest in proposed legislative action which would be of benefit to cavers and landowners alike and possibly open many more caves in the State of Texas for exploration.

This issue of the "Bull", could well be called the political issue of the year. There's few trip reports to print so I decided that a great deal of space could be filled covering the new proposed Cavern and Cave Groundwater Protection Acts to be introduced in the '89 State legislative session. These bills should be of interest to all cavers and we should do everything possible to see they're enacted. There'll be enough of that later on.

I see no reason for the information to be presented in this issue to cause anyone to take sides or split any caving organization into factions. The problem I see is the solutions presented are too simple and language too plain, there's too much common sense involved so all support available is needed to see the laws are passed.

CAVE PROTECTION BILL
by Texas Cave Law Coalition

SITUATION: The current Texas cave protection law (Natural Resources Code section 201) covers only three topics:

- 1) prohibits vandalizing or altering caves on State land (except with a permit which demonstrates necessity and benefit);
- 2) prohibits vandalizing caves, or tampering with cave gates, located on private land (except with permission of the owner);
- 3) prohibits the sale of speleothems (except with the owner's permission).

NEED: Many states throughout the nation, as well as the federal government are recognizing the value of our cave resources and the need to protect them by passing strong comprehensive cave protection laws. This need is increased as major urban centers, like Austin and San Antonio, expand onto our cavelands.

FACT: Caves are very special resources which maintain unique ecosystems and preserve valuable scientific data.

FACT: Caves are often the homes of the much maligned bat, without which life in a large portion of Texas would be unbearable due to the insect

populations (mosquitoes, etc.) that they control.

FACT: Caves are formed by water flowing underground. To protect caves is to protect the underground water supplies of the State of Texas.

FACT: Many of the world's greatest archaeological discoveries have been made in caves.

FACT: The expansion of the City of San Antonio alone has destroyed more than 50 known caves.

FACT: Caves are tremendous storehouses of cultural and scientific data which can enrich the lives of all Texans. Without exploration these resources cannot be tapped. Without landowner permission exploration is not possible. Current Texas law provides no liability protection to cave owners.

SOLUTION: A bill will be submitted to the 1989 Texas Legislative session to amend the State's current cave protection law. The passage of this bill into law would:

1) Protect owners of non-commercial caves. Cave owners who would give permission for the recreational or scientific use of their caves, and do not charge a fee, would not be held liable for any damages should an accident or injury occur.

2) Protect owners of commercial caves. Owners of caves where a fee is paid for viewing would not be held liable for injuries (unless the injuries are due to owner negligence in providing and maintaining stairs, trails, wiring and other modifications to the cave).

3) Protect owners of caves in campgrounds, parks or preserves. Unless a cave-fee is charged, the owners would not be liable for injuries sustained in a cave on their property.

4) Protect all cave owners from trespassers. No owner would be held liable for injuries to a person trespassing in a cave.

5) Clarify permitting process for State-owned caves. Safe human passage, within a cave on State land, would be allowed without requiring a permit. The wording of the current law makes simple visitation illegal without a permit.

6) Transfer authority for caves on State land. Authority for the issuance of permits to alter a cave on State land would be transferred from the General Land Office to the Parks and Wildlife Department, which is actively involved in the management of State-owned caves where the G.L.O. is not.

7) Improve permitting process for State Caves. The current G.L.O. permitting procedure would be deleted from State Law and the Parks and Wildlife Department would be allowed to develop their own procedure as best fits their infrastructure and the caves.

8) Strengthen law against sale of speleothems. Current law condemns the sale of speleothems, yet condones it if done with a cave owner's permission. The amended law clarifies the sale of speleothems as illegal and not a matter of individual discretion.

9) Protect cave life. Cave life would be protected from disturbance or harm except for reasons to protect public or individual health, perform scientific

research, or to protect the cave life from unusual or unnatural conditions.

10) Protect caves and cave life by setting cave gate criteria. Cave gates would be constructed to allow the natural of air, water and cave life.

Caves are one of this country's greatest "hidden" natural resources. The losses incurred by the destruction of caves is often tragic, devastating and sadly unnoticed. The benefits to be gained from proper management, however, can be far reaching.

PLEASE SUPPORT THE 1989 TEXAS CAVE PROTECTION BILL!!

SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS

Hon. Rep. Lena Guerrero
American Cave Conservation Assn.
National Speleological Society
Texas Cave Management Assn.
Texas Organization for Endangered Species
Texas Speleological Association
Texas Speleological Survey

THE BILLS

by Butch Fralia

The following bills as proposed are reprinted verbatim and your support is requested. The Bills are being introduced by Representative - Lena Guerrero of Austin. Your own local representative should be made aware of the bills and your interest in their passage.

The bills as printed may not be in the final form as they will be entered into the House because there is still final committee action to take place. In the interest of saving space in this publication, the double spacing and line numbers of the standard bill format have been omitted.

CAVERN PROTECTION BILL
A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

relating to liability of a cave owner and the protection and preservation of caves; providing penalties.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 201.002, Natural Resources Code, is amended by amending Subdivision (3) and adding Subdivisions (5) and (6) to read as follows:

(3) "Speleothem" means a natural mineral formation or deposit occurring in a cave, and includes or is synonymous with stalagmites stalactites helictites, anthodites, gypsum flowers, needles, angel's hair, soda straws, draperies, bacon, cave pearls, popcorn (coral), rimstone dams, columns, palettes, flowstone, or other similar crystalline mineral formations commonly composed of calcite, epsomite, gypsum, aragonite, celestite and other similar minerals and deposits.

(5) "Cave Life" means a life form that occurs naturally in a cave or cave ecosystem.

Section 2. Subchapter A, Chapter 201, Natural Resources Code, is amended by adding Section 201.003 to read as follows:

Sec. 201.003. LIABILITY. (a) in this section, "owner" includes an agent of the owner.

(b) An owner of a cave is not liable for civil damages arising from the use of the cave by a person to whom the owner has given permission to use the cave if:

(1) the person uses the cave for recreational or scientific purposes; and

(2) the owner did not charge the person a fee for the use of the cave.

(c) An owner of a cave is liable for civil damages arising from the use of a cave by a person who has paid a fee to the owner to view the cave only if the damages arise from an injury to the person caused by the negligence of the owner in providing and maintaining a trail, stair, electrical wire, or other artificial modification made to the cave.

(d) An owner of a campground, park or preserve, is not liable for civil damages arising from the use by a person of a cave on the property of the owner if the owner has not charged the person a specific fee for the use of the cave.

(e) An owner of a cave is not liable for civil damages to a person who trespasses in the cave or the cave entrance.

(f) This section does not increase the liability of an owner of a cave.

SECTION 3. The heading of Subchapter B, Chapter 201, Natural Resources Code, is amended to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER B. PERMITS FOR ALTERATION OF CAVES ON STATE LAND.

SECTION 4. Section 201.011, Natural Resources Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 201.011. PERMIT REQUIRED. Except to permit safe human passage or exploration, a person may not excavate, remove, destroy, injure, or alter in any significant manner, or deface any part of a cave owned by the State of Texas unless he first obtains a permit under Section 201.012 of this code.

SECTION 5. Section 201.012,, Natural Resources Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 201.012. ISSUANCE OF PERMIT. The Parks and Wildlife Department (General Land Office) may issue a permit under this subsection if the person seeking the permit complies with the requirements of the Parks and Wildlife Department.

SECTION 6. Section 201.013, Natural Resources Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 201.013. REVOCATION. The Parks and Wildlife Department may for good cause revoke any permit issued under Section 201.012 of this section.

SECTION 7. Section 201.014, Natural Resources Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 201.014. PENALTY. A person who violates Section 201.011 of this code is guilty of a Class B misdemeanor.

SECTION 8. Section 201.014(a), Natural Resources Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) a person may not, without express prior, permission of the owner, willful or knowingly:

(1) break, break off, crack, carve upon, write, burn, or otherwise mark upon, remove, or in any manner destroy, disturb, deface, mar, or harm, the surfaces of any cave or any natural materials in a cave, including speleothems;

(2) disturb or alter in any significant manner the natural condition of any cave; or

(3) break, force, tamper with, or otherwise disturb a lock gate, door, or other obstruction designed to control or prevent access to any cave, even though access to the cave may not be gained.

SECTION 9. Section 201.042, Natural Resources Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 201.042. SALE OF SPELEOTHEMS.

(a) A person may not sell or offer for sale any speleothems in this state or to export them for sale outside the state.

(b) A person who violates this section is guilty of a Class B misdemeanor.

SECTION 10. Subchapter C, Chapter 201, Natural Resources Code, is amended by adding Sections 201.043 and 201.044 to read as follows:

Sec. 201.043. HARMING CAVE LIFE.

(a) A person commits an offense if a person disturbs, removes, harms or kills cave life.

(b) It is a defense to prosecution under this section if an act prohibited by this section is reasonably necessary to:

- (1) protect Public health;
- (2) protect the health and safety of the person committing the offense or another person using the cave;
- (3) carry out a scientific research project; or
- (4) protect cave life from unusual or unnatural conditions.

(c) Except as provided by Subsection (d) of this section, an offense under this section is a Class B misdemeanor.

(d) If it is shown on the trial of an offense under this section that the defendant was convicted previously under this section, the offense is a Class A misdemeanor.

Sec. 201.044. CONSTRUCTION OF A GATE AT ENTRANCE TO A CAVE.

(a) A person commits an offense if the person intentionally constructs a gate at the entrance to a cave or any point within the cave and the gate does not allow the natural passage of air, water or cave life.

SECTION 11.

(a) This act applies only to the prosecution of an offense on or after the effective date of this Act. For purposes of this section, an offense is committed before the

effective date of this Act if any element of the offense occurs before the effective date.

Section 12. This act takes effect September 1, 1989.

CAVE GROUNDWATER BILL
A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

relating to the protection and preservation of the state of Texas as is affected through caves and related features; providing penalties.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section xxx.xxx, Natural Resources Code (?), is amended by adding Subchapter x to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER X. GROUNDWATER PROTECTION VIA CAVES

Sec. xxx.xxx. DEFINITIONS.

(a) "Cave" means a naturally occurring subterranean cavity. The word "cave" includes or is synonymous with cavern, pit, pothole, well, and grotto, and sinkhole except where described as in subsection (d) of this section.

(b) "Person or persons" means an individual, partnership, firm, association,, trust or corporation.

(c) "Cave life" means a life form which occurs naturally in a cave or cave ecosystem.

(d) "Sinkhole" means a closed depression on the land surface formed by the natural removal to the subsurface of water, soil, rock or other material and shall be synonymous with sink, doline, karst window, uvala, closed valley, subsidence, collapse bowl, depression, pipe, and funnel.

(e) "Significant cave recharge area" means sinkholes, caves faults, and other geological features where rapid movement of water to the subsurface occurs.

(f) "Water pollution abatement plan" means a report describing methods to alter a cave, sinkhole, or significant cave recharge area in a manner which best protects these features and the groundwater quality of the State of Texas.

Section xxx.xxx. REFUSE.

(a) A person commits an offense if a person stores, dumps, disposes of, or places in any other manner chemicals, dead animals, sewage, trash, garbage or other refuse which is detrimental or hazardous to the mineral deposits in the cave, the cave life, the groundwater of the State of Texas, or a person using the cave or groundwater for any purpose.

(b) Except as provides by Subsection (b) of this section, an offense under this section is a Class A misdemeanor and requires the person to remedy the violation.

(c) If it is shown on the trial of an offense under this section that the defendant was previously convicted under this section, the offense is punishable by a fine in an amount equal to \$1000 for each day the violations continues.

Sec. xxx.xxx. PERMITS FOR ALTERATION OF CAVES. Unless a person obtains a permit as provided by Section xxx.xxx of this code, a person may not fill in, close, destroy, or impede the flow of water into a cave or significant recharge

area.

Sec. xxx.xxx. **ISSUANCE OF PERMITS.** The Texas Water Commission may issue a permit allowing alteration of a cave or significant cave recharge area if:

(1) the commission finds that the alteration will not be harmful to the ecosystem of the cave, sinkhole, significant cave recharge area, or the groundwater of the state, or to a person using such features for any purpose; and

(2) the person seeking permission to alter the cave, sinkhole or significant cave recharge area provides the information required under Section xxx.xxx of this code.

Sec. xxx.xxx. **INFORMATION REQUIRED TO ISSUE A PERMIT.** A person seeking a permit under this subchapter must before a permit is issued, provide to the commission a water pollution abatement plan which:

(1) provides a surface and subsurface description of the cave, sinkhole, or significant cave recharge area, which defines the recharge area, annual quantity of recharge and the groundwater flow paths.

Sec. xxx.xxx **PENALTIES.**

(a) A person commits an offense if a person violates Section xxx.xxx of this code.

(b) Except as provided by Subsection (b) of this section, an offense under this section is a Class A misdemeanor and requires the person to remedy the violation.

(c) If it is shown on the trial of an offense under this section that the defendant was previously convicted under this section, the offense is punishable by a fine in an amount equal to \$1000 for each day the violation continues.

SECTION 2.

(a) This act applies only to the prosecution of an offense on or after the effective date of this act. For purposes of this section, an offense is committed before the effective date of this Act if any element of the offense occurs before the effective date.

(b) An offense committed before the effective date of this Act is covered by the law in effect when the offense was committed, and the former law is continued in effect for this purpose.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect xxx 1989.

ROBBER BARRON CAVE by Donna Anderson

Date: October 22, 1988
Destination: Robber Barron Cave
Personnel: Bruce & Donna Anderson, Larry & Illona Chu, and Bob Cowell.

Saturday morning at 5 a.m. Bruce and I left for Austin for a dog show. We met Larry and Illona, who are from Houston, at the show site. They had previously stated an interest in going caving and I had brought all the extra equipment for the new cavers. I thought they would back out at the last minute but they were both still excited about the prospect of going caving. At noon we left Austin and headed to San Antonio as there was a dog show there the next day and also that is where Robber Barron Cave is located. It is a very

good beginner cave.

I made contact with Bob Cowell in San Antonio and he agreed to meet us at the cave at 5 p.m. He unlocked the gate for us and gave us the grand tour. The cave was hot and many areas had bad air. But Robber Barron is a fun maze cave complete with walking, crawling, and climbing areas. Our two new cavers adapted quickly to crawling and climbing and enjoyed their new experience.

Bob had the pleasure of pointing out to me a long tight crawlway. No one else wanted to go, of course, so he said they would meet up with me where it came out. I happily crawled off and found that it doubled back and eventually emerged about 10 feet from where I had entered. Bob was smiling.

Bob pointed out several digs in the cave that hopefully will open up to parts of the cave that were blasted closed. Many years ago the cave was commercially opened and self guided tours were offered. After some people became lost for 3 days, the owner decided to close some of the back parts by blasting. If the lost passages are found, Robber Barron could become longer than Honey Creek. We all appreciated Bob taking time to unlock the cave for us and for guiding us through the cave.

THE CRUMP'S CAVE PROJECT - DECEMBER '88 EXPEDITION by Woodrow Thomas

The exploration and mapping of Crump's Cave in Warren County, Kentucky became an official project of the Central Kentucky Cave Survey in May 1988. Since that time, 15 cavers from 4 states have participated in 10 trips into the cave resulting in 6,500 feet of survey. Currently we have several going passages, two digs, and a climbing lead. Most of the cave is large borehole trunk with few decorations and many high domes. Our present survey efforts are focused on the lower levels of the cave. Plans are being made for a week-long expedition to Crump's in December 1988. The dates are December 26 through January 1. Our goals are to follow the water in the lower levels downstream, to find a way around the terminal breakdown in the trunk passage, and to document possible Indian mud glyphs in the cave. All competent, well equipped cavers willing to follow the standard safety and conservation ethics are invited to contact me about participating in the December '88 expedition. Survey experience is preferred but not necessary. A desire to cave hard and the ability to get along with others is a must.

As co-director of the project, I am proud of our progress in Crump's Cave and I am excited about the future prospects. If you have skills to offer and are interested in joining our team, call or write me:

Woodrow Thomas	David Doyle
951 E. Marshall St.	21997 Louisville Rd.
Cooper, Texas 75432	or Park City, KY
	Zip 42160-9998
214/395-4492	502/749-5205

GORMAN FALLS WORKTRIP by Butch Fralia

DATES: October 7-9, 1989
DESTINATION: Colorado Bend State Park,
San Saba County, Texas.

PERSONNEL: Bruce and Donna Anderson, Dawn Burow, Butch & Jennifer Fralia, Stephanie(?), Keith Heuss, Alvis Hill, Terry Holsinger, Ralph & son Jones, Ed & Christine Poynter, and Danny Sherrrod.

Once again, cavers from across the state descended on Colorado Bend State Park, for the monthly work trip. Arriving at the campsite late Friday night, Butch, Jennifer and Stephanie found that everyone had already retired for the night.

They awakened Keith and gave him a hard time then proceeded to prepare the mobile field house for residency. Upon turning on the propane and igniting the refrigerator, smells of propane began to permeate the motor home. Rushing outside and turning off the gas, they heard a whosh! Jennifer began rather calmly exclaiming the motor home was on fire. Looking through the window, flames could be seen in the rear of the vehicle. Butch rushed in to find all the pillows (removed from beds at home) on fire. Finding the fire extinguisher missing, he began removing burning pillows and tossing them outside on the ground. Jennifer began a calm dissertation on how much easier the project would be using the fire extinguisher, Butch (still tossing burning objects out the door), explained the fire extinguisher was missing. Jennifer replied that Stephanie (Jennifer's friend who accompanied her for the weekend) had it. By this time Stephanie had cleared the motor home by approximately one-quarter of a mile gaining momentum all the while. Jennifer recovered the extinguisher and the fire was completely extinguished leaving a sootky motor home.

Keith had observed the whole episode from the comfort of his Volkswagon Van. He walked over as Butch was lamenting the loss of pillows and said "I knew this was going to be an exciting weekend when we found a rattlesnake in Blue Ribbon Cave, this afternoon." He watched the smoke clear for a few moments then returned to bed.

In a short time, it was possible to clear the smoke and everyone finally went to bed.

The next day, it was discovered that for some reason a gas line had completely broken in to, disabling the refrigerator, stove and hot water heater for the weekend. Butch, Jennifer, and Stephanie were forced to spend the remainder of the weekend, "roughing it."

The main project for the weekend, was to pump the bad air from Blue Ribbon Cave (named for a Pabst Blue Ribbon beer can found inside on the first trip). Keith had devised the equipment to do this and along with a portable generator borrowed from TPWD, had rigged the cave for the project, late Friday afternoon. During the rigging operations, a rattlesnake had been discovered some forty feet down into the cave. A rescue operation was attempted but the snake wouldn't cooperate. Cavers satisfied themselves with keeping him backed into a small fissure, safely out of reach.

When the equipment had activated to pump Blue Ribbon Cave, a visit was made to the lower gold mine. Attempts to enter were thwarted by a lack of hand holds, and loose dirt covering the rocky entrances. The cavers left with intentions of returning later with rope for a descent. Time did not permit this so something else is left for another trip. There are two abandoned gold mines where placer deposits of gold were once found. If there's any gold left, it's not economically feasible to produce and no longer acceptable since they're on a state park. They are interesting to visit however.

Saturday morning (while Blue Ribbon Cave was being pumped) Dynamite Cave was rediscovered. Dynamite cave was originally a narrow fissure unenterable except by the skinniest of people. The original owners were treasure hunters and felt Dynamite cave had to be the site of the mother lode. They managed to get 300 sticks of dynamite into the cave and convinced a skinny girlfriend, of one of the sons, to drop into the cave and set caps. Ignition of the dynamite, yielded a large friendly entrance, a nice cave approximately 300 feet long, with 8 foot ceilings but no gold. The name of course is derived from the means of creating the entrance. At the back of Dynamite, there is a nice chimney back to the surface which naturally had to be checked out by several of the avid climbers.

Later, Butch, Danny, Jennifer, and Stephanie, went off to try and relocate Danny's lost Carlesbad connection. The area where the cave is located was rediscovered but wasn't re-ridge walked due to time factors.

Butch and Danny, re-explored Beginners Luck Cave (a cave discovered and mapped on another trip) and discovered a colony of approximately 50 grey free-tail bats living in the cave. There were also a number of large mice which provided entertainment for a time. One of the free tails, flew from the ceiling and knocked itself silly on Butch's hard hat. Butch attempted to see if the poor critter was injured (only it's pride) only to learn it wouldn't be pacified and it insisted on trying to bite. After assurance it wasn't hurt, the bat was placed on a rock ledge where it insisted on barking at the intruders like an angry dog.

Bruce, Donna and others in the meantime, were attempting to place "Do Not Enter" signs on cave entrances. The project wasn't successful, as the masonry bits were dull and the portable drill batteries kept running down. A couple of caves were "signed" but not as many as the state requested.

Late in the afternoon, the Blue Ribbon pumping operation was successfully completed and passage down to the bottom section of the cave was possible. The part of the cave which was pumped, ended in a mud choke. Another part was not pumped (to complicated to explain here) but appears to be the water passage and the "going" section of the cave if there is such a thing. It was noted for a later trip. It will be interesting to monitor the cave now and see how long it takes for the air to go bad again.

The state is interested in opening a few caves (based on caver recommendations) for public entry to see what kind of response they'll get from the general public. Dynamite Cave, Circurina, and Gorman Creek Crevice, will likely be suggested as possible trial caves. The entrances are reasonably friendly and there's no bad air or vertical equipment requirement. Cave management recommendations are being prepared for presentation which will allow cave permits to be issued at the park for caves which are open. This will primarily consist of signing a release form and letting park personnel know someone is in a cave so they'll know where to start looking if someone disappears.

The only complaint to date with cavers, is that they can't put signs up fast enough to satisfied their needs. The problem has been identified to the state, that the equipment available doesn't facilitate putting up more than three signs per work trip. With about one hundred known caves on the property, this doesn't lend itself to a rapidly completed operation.

For those interested, Colorado Bend is a long term project with many caves to locate, survey, etc. Assuming the project will be completed, the should be about 200 caves.

ANNUAL MAVERICK GROTTO ANNIVERSARY PARTY

At long last, after rescheduling and such, it's time once again for the annual Maverick Grotto anniversary party. The party will be held at the M & W Ranch near Glen Rose, Texas. Camping fees may have gone up to \$4.00 per car per night, but there's some confusion on this, there will be a fee for camping and entry.

The M&W Ranch is located on the banks of the Brazos River and this time of year especially will offer undisturbed camping and partying.

There will be lots of people and fun, the main event of course will be a Fajita dinner cooked by chefs Steve Dalton and Mike Cagle. Others are requested to bring an accompanying dish. If you haven't already signed up to bring something, please contact Bruce Anderson (817/246-6313) to see what's needed.

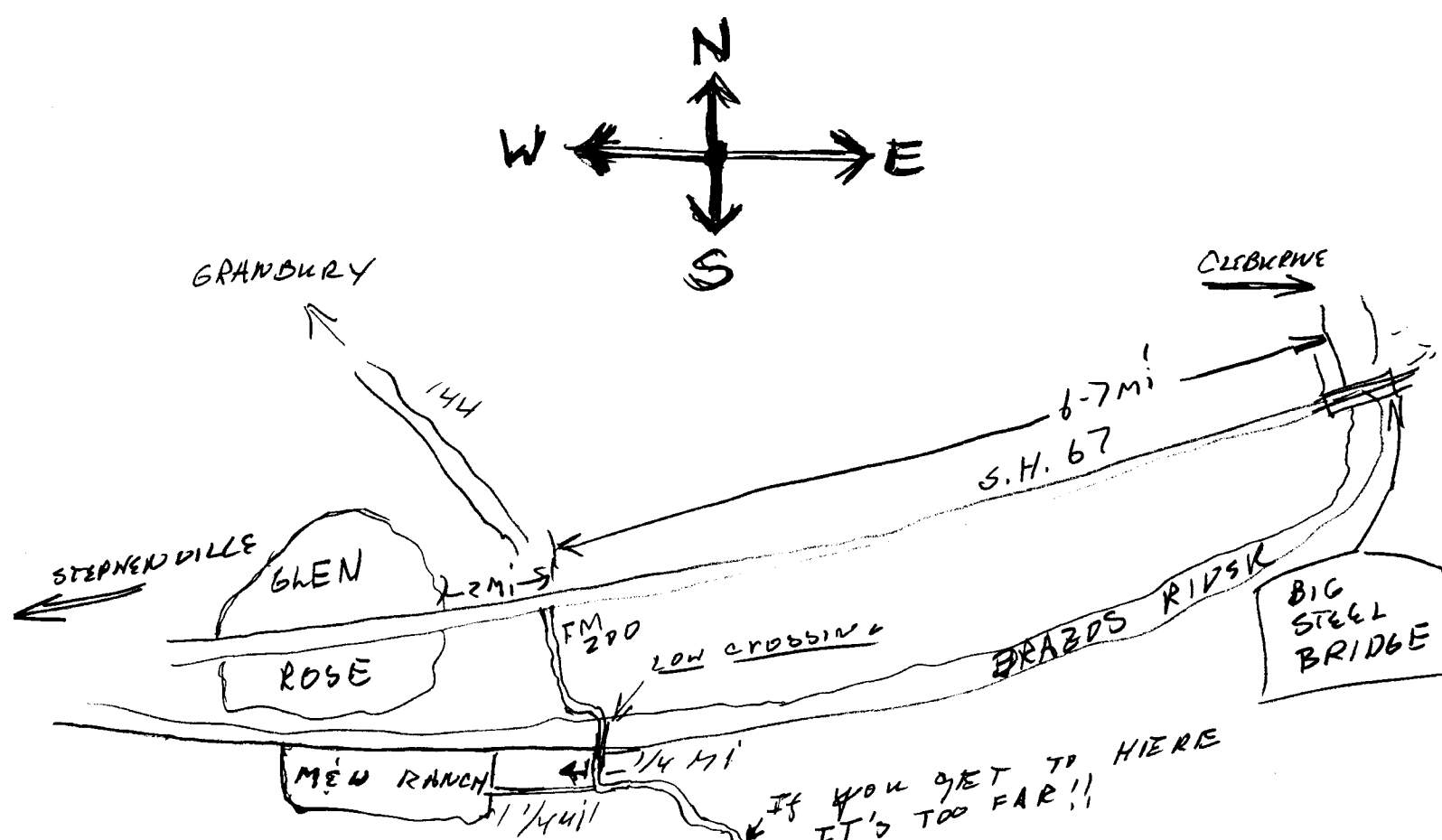
Once on the Ranch, Donna Anderson has made some unmistakable signs to direct cavers to the camping area.

The M&W is reached by following State Highway 67, to Farm to Market Road, 200 which intersects State Highway 67, about two miles east of Glen Rose. Turn south on 200, and follow the road until you cross the River at a low water crossing. Approximately 1/4 mile past the crossing, there will be a sign point down a side road (to the right) identifying the M&W. Follow the road until you come to the ranch yard, continue driving and you'll discover the sign which directs you to stop and pay fees.

Once inside the camping area, look for signs which will direct you to the caving camp site.

It's likely that due to the lateness of the season, the cavers will have the whole place to themselves. There's discussion that Steve Dalton may bring a portable generator and that slides could be shown. Bring slides and such if you have them, just in case.

There's slim pickings on firewood so if you have some available, please bring firewood. Every little bit will help. Since it's so late in the season, it may get a mite chillish and a fire will feel good!!!



- NOTES!
- ① GLEN ROSE IS WET IF YOU RUN OUT OF BEER.
 - ② Bring firewood if you can!