

# The Maverick Bull

## The Maverick Grotto Newsletter

Volume 1, Number 2

December 1986

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THE MAVERICK BULL, is the monthly newsletter of THE MAVERICK GROTTTO, which may or not be an internal organization of the National Speleological Society (Constitution and Charter membership submitted). 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 will be accepted and are urged to be submitted on floppy diskettes in either APPLE II, or 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.

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

PRINTING: This issue was printed FREE by the TROG PRESS, INC. in the Republic of Texas. General flunkies for this issue were Captain Cammo, Indiana Smith, Major Munchkin and Major Meister Brau.

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

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.

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COVER: The cover for this issue is courtesy of cave/architect/artist Wallace Hughes. (COPYRIGHT © 1977, by Wallace Hughes)

The caver chimneying in upper left is Bob Lloyd in the "manhole," Fitton or Beauty Cave, Arkansas. An unknown caver is just to the right of Lloyd, and seems to be studying two large stalagmites in a cave near Bustemonte, Mexico. On the wire ladder is Ronald E. Miller, with C. Edwin Kunath just below, rappelling into Pumpkin in the Carta Valley area. The pickup camper and car with a tent is Calvin Hurst and party in the infamous Carta Valley triangle. Immediately below are cave crawlers, in the Crystal Crawl in Fitton Cave. Cavertruckers (L to R) in the lower left are Mike Moody, Ronnie Fiesler, Bill Elliot, and Jon Vinson. The street scene with the Studebaker pickup and horse cart is in Bustemonte, Mexico. At the bottom, (L to R) Bob Lloyd, Wallace Hughes, and Calvin Hurst dine below the gypsum flower in Fitton Cave.

#### FIRST MEETING:

The first meeting of THE MAVERICK GROTTTO, was held Wednesday, November 19, 1986. Items discussed were ratification of the NSS Constitution, Meeting Times, Grotto Name, Newsletter Name, Membership Dues, Non-member Subscriber dues, membership requirements, election of officers and plans for the first annual Christmas Party.

The standard NSS Constitution was adopted for the new Grotto with minor modifications. New members present signed up as Charter Members along with members of the Arbuttle Grotto, who were unable to attend.

Meeting times were selected as the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 P.M., SMOKEY'S RIBS, 5300 East Lancaster in Fort Worth. Alternate meeting sights will be announced in the newsletter prior to the meeting.

THE MAVERICK GROTTTO, was voted in as the official Grotto name as it didn't imply a Geographical Region. THE ARBUCKLE GROTTTO is merging into the new Grotto and all members felt that Geographical implications should not be inherent in the name selected.

THE MAVERICK BULL, was selected from various names submitted for the Newsletter.

Membership dues for the New Grotto will be \$6.00 per year per household and include one newsletter copy. Non-member subscriber dues will be \$10.00. The membership/subscription year will be from January 1, to December 31.

Membership requirements, will be to attend 3 caving trips with 3 different Grotto members, be sponsored by a Grotto Member and be voted in by a 2/3 majority of members present.

Officers were elected for the upcoming year.

#### CHRISTMAS PARTY

THE MAVERICK GROTTTO's first annual Christmas party will be held December 20th at 7:00 P.M. Danny and Jane Sherron will host the party at their spacious chateau located in Joshua, Texas. Take I-35W South from Fort Worth, to Highway 174 in Burleson. Drive south approximately 9 miles to Joshua. Turn right off of 174 onto Cobb (just before Mann's Short Stop). Danny and Jane's, address is 3 Cobb, located on the right about center block. If you pass the Mann's Short Stop, convenience store you've gone to far. If you get lost, call 295-5167 for directions (see attached map).

This will be an informal affair. BYOB and any food, pie, chips, dips, desserts will be appreciated and

**CAVING IN THE BUDS  
OR  
DOES YOUR CHEWING GUM LOOSE IT'S FLAVOR ON THE  
STALACTITE OVERNIGHT?**

by C. L. Corcoran

**DATES:** October 17-20, 1985

**DESTINATION:** Three Mile Hill, Guadalupe Mountains, New Mexico

**PERSONNEL:** Donna Anderson, Corky Corcoran, Chuck Cluck, Sharon Lytle, Bobby Moore, Susan Penney

It was late Friday afternoon when the Bat-bot and B.U.R.T. (the Bat-bot, is Chuck's most efficient Suburban and B.U.R.T. is Donna's "Big Ugly Red Truck") arrived at Jim Goodbar's house in the "Land of Enchantment." Jim, who has always been a gracious and foresighted host, sat the road-weary cavers down to a pot of stew that has yet to be rivalled, east or west of the Pecos River. After dinner and good-byes the trucks were once again loaded with their human counterparts and with their sights set on the sun they all headed for the mountains.

The plan for the night was to set up camp and go caving. Unfortunately things didn't go as the cavers planned due to Corky missing a turn and though camp was finally raised no caving was done that night. (It also should be pointed out that the Bat-bot didn't help things by deciding to have two flat tires and refusing to go any farther.)

The next morning everybody was up early (if you call between nine and ten o'clock early) and were ready to go caving (if you call standing around cooking and eating breakfast "ready to go caving"). After assimilating breakfast and assembling gear the troop was off to Cottonwood Cave, to help the Park Service do cleanup work in the infamous Second Parallel. This passage was closed five years ago after vandals did a good amount of destruction. Despite the vandalism there are still fabulous gypsum formations, the most pronounced being called the "Chandelier" which can only be seen and photographed, not described. According to Ransom Turner, the group's trusty ranger and guide, the passage will be open to guided tours after the restoration work is complete.

Next on the agenda was a rendezvous with Park Ranger Jerry Trout and a trip to Cave Tree Cave. A little trouble was encountered trying to find Jerry but thanks to Sharon's incredible quarter-mile dash the cavers were once again on their way. This cave, located close to Hidden Cave, is accessible only by ranger guided tour and very well worth the trouble. The only requirement is that people entering the cave wear nylon socks instead of boots. This is to ensure that the cave remains pristine by not allowing mud and dirt accumulated on boots to be tracked on the formations. You get a whole new perspective on cave conservation when you've walked on cave popcorn in nothing more than your bare feet to keep from damaging it.

Waiting at the truck was a surprise in the form of Jim Goodbar and his sister Ellen Hopkins. They had driven up from Carlsbad to share in the reverie of camp life with the rest of the group. Back at the camp a great campfire was raised to warm both spirits and bodies and most noticeably good food. Great indeed was the fire for it drew forth cavers from the woods and in that light those cavers found what they sought; "spirits" i.e. George Dickel. The arriving group was none other than John Brooks and Company (Mike Cagle, the party animal; Jerrald Saulsberry, the lightning caver; Greg Mooty, another party animal; and two others whose

names are not known but probably have equally dubious reputations) coming to exchange spirits, tales and songs. Needless to say it was quite late before the adventurers got to bed.

Sunday morning was much like Saturday in that our group was up early and ready to go caving. Jim had come to the rescue again by offering to find the caves. This proved difficult even for him. Fog had drifted in and obscured the mountains. By the time cavers reached the caves fog had even obscured the trail. Jim, having pressing business in town, bade the haughty group good caving and disappeared down the trail. One by one the cavers entered what is known as Pink Panther Cave. After many pictures and much exploration the heroes of our story settled down for a fine lunch of HOT Chili and Rotel. The heat of course was provided by Donna's remarkable carbide stove. The group decided that a walk in the dark would not be fun so it was up the rope and out of the cave. Much to our heroes chagrin it was already dark and so foggy that visibility, with a strong light, was about ten feet. Complicating matters further was the rain which showed no sign of letting up. After several attempts to find the trail, our group of wet heroes decided to give up and seek shelter in the cave. With the help of five carbide lamps, three emergency space blankets and each other the group managed to sleep uncomfortably until dawn brought new hope of finding the way back to the truck.

Dawn's hope proved to be not wrong so we join our cavers back at camp preparing to embark on the journey home. Chuck, Susan and Sharon were headed for the Metroplex while Donna, Corky and Bobby were head for Carlsbad Caverns. After visiting the caverns the three stopped by Jim's house to offer thanks and dinner after which setting sun saw the last of the group safely to his home.

**RIVER STYX: "THE NEVER ENDING STORY"**

by Butch Fralia

**DATES:** August 9-11, 1986

**DESTINATION:** River Styx Cave, Bateman Ranch, King County, Texas

**PERSONNEL:** Donna Anderson, Corky Corcoran, Butch Fralia, Mark Porter, Danny Sherrod, Chris Williams, Shane the Wonder Dog.

From the Metroplex seven rode, by different routes at different times. To a Ranch called Bateman to explore a cave called Styx, the underground river of the dead (bats). One of three rivers crossed by the dead on their way to Hades. Seven to challenge a legend of another time and place. Their quest, to cross the dread river as the living, explore the kingdom and return to tell the tale.

A most Magnificent Seven, this human six and canine one: Captain Cazmo Corcoran, in knightly armor; Ancient spelunker Crafty Chris Williams, with vast experience in underground duels; Major Munchkin Anderson, queen of the dark crawlway; Mighty Mark Porter, the quiet strength of Castle Plano; Daring Danny Sherrod, new to the quest but ancient in willingness; Lord Shane, King of the Canine Speleological Society (K9SS); Humble Major Meister Frau (also known as Captain Commodore in deference to the portable potty).

The seven upon a magnificent hill did a great camp raise, fitted with royal luxury of porta potty facilities. A great fire and kingly spirits warmed their souls on the upcoming trial.

A night in repose then a hardy meal before the Seven

joined into groups of three and four. Three set out for the cave called Styx while four departed in a splendid chariot driven from wheels all four, to offer gifts of gab and pay tribute due the Gentle Queen of Bateman.

After honoring the Gentle Queen, four returned to don protective armors, before journey to an entrance called '63 near another called '64, and near one hopefully to be called '86. Upon shocked eyes befell a scene of hideous destruction from great forces of nature releasing the oceans of the sky to rampage the earth. Great waters moved loose timber and slimy muds to nearly close the '63, cover the '64 and remove signs of what was to have been the '86. This then passing underground. Great waters sufficient to quench the fires of Hades itself.

Fear gripped the four as they traveled quickly to remnants of the entrance called '63, anxious the underground kingdom suffered eternal destructions. They met the first three returning, telling tales of underground waters unknown in previous times. In a place called Window, waters stood at depths exceeding a tall man's head. The three covered with slimes of the kingdom pled the four to reconsider ingress. At least one of the four, a small furry beast being not a creature of water should stay.

Deaf to all pleas the four entered the kingdom to witness the changes and cover themselves with slimes in mourning of what was, and may never be again. The four; Captain Cammo, Lord Shane, Major Meister Brau, and Major Munchkin journeyed through passage of the kingdom. Awed, they saw; rooms had become lakes, large stores where they were not, and slimes removed, exposing stone floors before unseen.

In a room called Junction through a passage called Gypsum Blister, evidence of floods abounded. Sticks and Grasses upon the ceiling and Gypsum Blisters on the floor. Nature again gave testimony of her great strength. Onward they, through a passage called Meat Grinder toward an entrance hopefully to be called '86.

They passed a lead unexplored by any and unknown to but few. Captain Cammo entered to find a labyrinth of passage leading to the unknown. He explored several passages only to discover more passage. Time would not allow exploring all passage. The weekend held great expectations for accomplishing many great deeds. The place called Labyrinth would be a mystery for another day and time.

They sought the entrance hopefully to be called '86 only to find floods eliminated it for all time. Where once was blue sky was breakdown ceiling. Stones moved and shifted for all time, covered the entrance hopefully to be called '86.

In place of the entrance hopefully to be called '86 came a small passage coated with foam to fill the hearts of the four with awe. Challenge of the passage filled the heart of a serpent with rattles upon it's tail with ire. It gave great snakes of it's tail filling the kingdom with sound and hearts of the four with fear.

The four expended many hours in witness of the kingdom before tiring and departing to the great camp with portable potty facilities where they again united with the three to become seven once more.

The three, ancient spelunker Crafty Chris, Mighty Mark and Daring Danny had performed walking of ridges and challenged the entrance of a cave called Salinas Bat. The ancient Spelunker entered finding egress difficult. He pleas the others not enter.

After retelling the day's journey seven sought repose for the night only to have Nature take revenge for intrusion into the kingdom. Oceans of the sky not used in previous treatment of the cave called Styx were loosed upon the great camp while the seven suffered the night listening to the waters falling upon their marvelous chariots and pup tents.

Early Morn found skies free of water and climes improved from the day before. The seven ate hardy and planned the new day.

Major Munchkin, Major Meister Brau, Mighty Mark and Daring Danny, would enter the entrance called River of the Cave called Styx and attempt journey from a room called Main Bat to a room called Second Bat by way of passage Major Meister Brau discovered on an earlier quest.

Captain Cammo, beaten by a previous week of dueling the Magical Money Machineries of the Mystical MBank would spend the morning in repose. Ancient Spelunker Crafty Chris would perform walking of ridges seeking magical cures for a knee damaged dueling fires. Lord Shane would remain with Captain Cammo due to previous lose of joust, in the room called Main Bat.

The new four descended cliffs of Gypsum to the entrance called River where the dread water had risen from passed floods. Major Munchkin donned flotation devices to prevent submersion while Major Meister Brau excavated canals for drainage of the kingdom's river.

Upon ingress was again evidence of the floods. The entrance of the room called Main Bat was direly changed, rocks where they were not and slimes purged from the floors. Covering the ceiling of the room called Main Bat were it's name sakes who protested intrusion. Fearing aid be summoned from Main Bat himself, the four fled the area into the passage necessary to complete the quest.

Major Meister Brau ascended into rocky passage of breakdown followed closely by Major Munchkin. Mighty Mark and Daring Danny bewitched by a sudden attack of good sense opted for egress leaving the foolish Majors alone in the quest.

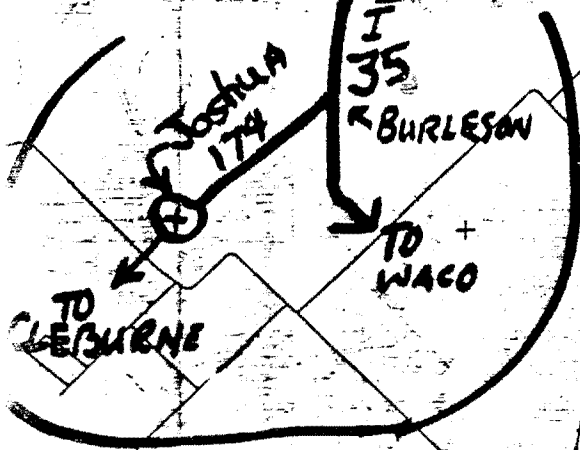
Major Meister Brau found passage once blocked by a large boulder opened by floods. He journeyed into a large room from whence he summoned Major Munchkin. The Crawly Queen entered naming the area as the room called Second Bat. The valiant were victorious in at least one of the weekend's quests.

In celebration they journeyed to a room called First Bat before returning for egress. Approaching the exit (also the entrance called River) they saw light. The remaining five, fearing harm had dispatched Captain Cammo to effect rescue. Deeming Rescue unnecessary the Captain toured the connection passage then all withdrew from the cave. The three were met at the entrance by the remaining human three. The remaining three expounded upon their fears, not the least of which was the boiling of their bodily juices from sun exposure.

The human six climbed Gypsum cliffs to meet the canine one and be united as seven again. Two days of quest and great experience but alas, of time all was done. The quest must end and they return to less magnificent lives in the Metroplex.

To the Metroplex seven rode, by different routes at different times yet still they rode. From a Ranch called Bateman exploring a cave called Styx, the underground river of the dead (bats). One of three rivers crossed by the dead on their way to Hades. Seven challenged a legend of another time and place where they crossed the dread river as the living, and returned to tell the tale.

Their quest, to finish exploration in the underground kingdom of a cave called Styx but now comes the mysterious labyrinth. Quest's are always the same; finish exploration. Quest are always the same; ending with new mysteries. A cave called Styx, on a Ranch called Bateman, "The Never Ending Story."



295-5167  
DANNY  
SHERROD

JOSHUA HARDWARE

COBB

SKIPPER  
"B"

Joshua  
City Limits  
Sign

SHORT  
STOP

1986  
MAVERICK  
GROTTO  
XMAS  
PARTY  
SITE  
SOUTH OF  
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