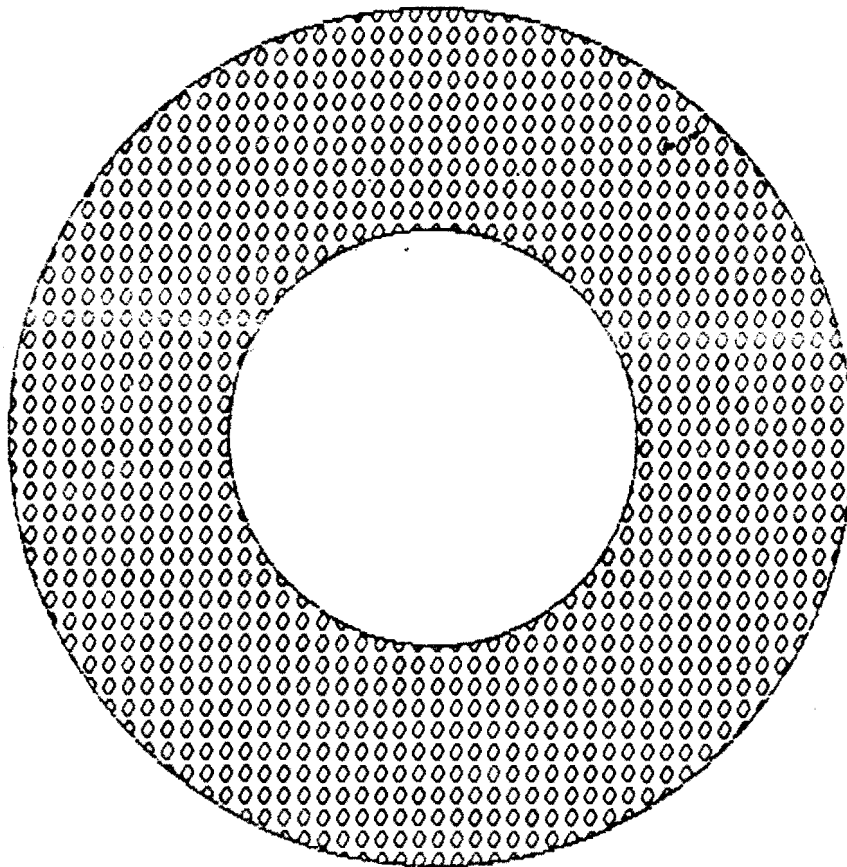


The Maverick Bull

The Maverick Grotto Newsletter

Volume 2, Number 1

January 1987



*See Page 2, Note 1, for information on cover art!!!!

THE MAVERICK BULL, is the monthly newsletter of THE MAVERICK GROTTO, proposed 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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Internal organizations of the National Speleological Society may reprint any item first appearing in THE MAVERICK BULL if proper credit is given and a complete copy of the publication is delivered to THE MAVERICK GROTTO 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.

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

MEMBERSHIP POLICY: Cavers with interests, beliefs, and actions consistent with the purposes of THE MAVERICK GROTTO and the National Speleological Society are eligible for membership. Membership in the National Speleological Society is encouraged, but not mandatory except to hold office. Acceptance of the new regular, family, or associate members shall be by payment of dues and by a two-thirds vote of the grotto membership present at a regular monthly meeting, after a three trip requirement with at least three different grotto members has been met. These three members shall act as sponsors and one must be present at the time of meeting.

MAVERICK: 1) American pioneer who did not brand his calves, 2) An unbranded range animal, especially a calf, 3) An independent individual, who refuses to conform with his group.

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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*NOTE 1: This months cover art by Big Fat Zero because that's what we got, come on Maverick's, this is your newsletter, make it work!!!!

CALENDAR

January 13, 1987 Maverick Grotto Meeting.

January 24,25, 1987 Hinton Creek Cave,
Collingsworth County, Tx.
Trip pending weather
conditions. Survey trip
limited to 8 persons.
Contact Corky Corcoran
for details

February 10, 1987 Maverick Grotto Meeting.

March 10, 1987 Maverick Grotto Meeting.

April 14, 1987 Maverick Grotto Meeting.

May 12, 1987 Maverick Grotto Meeting.
 May 17/18, 1987 Trip to Sherfield Cave
 Boxley, Ark. Contact
 Corky Concoran, for details
 June 9, 1987 Maverick Grotto Meeting.

LAST MEETING:

The last meeting of THE MAVERICK GROTTTO, was held Tuesday, December 9, 1986, attended by 12 people. There was confusion as to whether there would be a regular December as well as the Christmas Party. The newsletter did not include a calender.

The NSS Constitution was re-read and various items of fine tuning were voted on. This should be the last rewrite of the constitution.

An issue of contention was a bylaw, forbidding Officers of other Grottos to hold simultaneous voting membership in the MAVERICK GROTTTO. A motion was placed before the chair to allow officers of other Grottos full voting membership but prohibit Officership in the MAVERICK GROTTTO while currently an officer of another Grotto.

A discussion was held about the November meeting being invitational in nature and not an open meeting. This was done intentionally to allow a group of people known to desire the formation of a local Grotto to set up the initial structure. It was noted that fifteen people attended the initial meeting and five more were represented who were unable to attend. It was/is intended that the MAVERICK GROTTTO will not actively recruit from other Grottos.

The December meeting was an open meeting and all future meetings will be open to any and all interested parties. The charter membership of the MAVERICK GROTTTO will continue it's policy of not actively recruiting from other Grottos but members of other Grottos are more than welcome as visitors, subscribers and are eligible for membership in the MAVERICK GROTTTO if they so desire and petition, providing they meet the membership requirements. Persons wishing a sample copy of the newsletter should contact any officer.

Dale Ellison, provided the program for the meeting in the form of an excellent video tape of the "Caves of Glass." The "Caves of Glass" are ice caves in Austria. The tape featured the exploration of the Ice Caves and many beautiful shots of ice formations. Those of you who missed the meeting, missed a very entertaining tape. It was a very good example of a variation in the sport and science of caving.

JANUARY MEETING

In addition to the usual order of business, trip reports and etc., The Tuesday, January 13, program will include a video tape of the Elusive Deaths of Mexico, about a British caving expedition into Mexican caves. This tape is reported to have some excellent footage of Mexican cave formations. Be sure not to miss this one.

A very large newsletter mailing is being sent out this month. THE MAVERICK GROTTTO, would like to invite as many interested parties as possible to attend the January meeting.

JANUARY MEETING: DFW GROTTTO

While we are separate organizations, we feel it appropriate to point out outstanding presentations of interest at DFW. The Wednesday January 28, meeting of the DFW Grotto will feature a presentation on Electrotelluric sounding as a tool for location of underground voids. Scientists from Geophysics International, Dallas, will make the presentation. This presentation should be of interest to all cavers.

LOGO CONTEST

THE MAVERICK GROTTTO is holding a contest to select a Logo for the new grotto. The logo should be appropriate for the Grotto name. The winning logo will be the official Grotto Logo for use on patches, bumper stickers, Tee Shirts or whatever.

The prize will likely be a carbide Lamp of collectors interest, provided by Corky Concoran. Corky, has lately managed to collect at least 18 old Carbide cap lamps.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

THE MAVERICK GROTTTO's first annual Christmas party was held December 20th at Danny and Jane Sherrod's spacious chateau located in Joshua, Texas. The party was held in the Sherrod's large three car garage where Grotto members enjoyed pleasant camaraderie, good munchies, games, certificate of merit awards and gag gift exchange.

In the white elephant gift category, the most notable was a large safe provided by Joe Giddens III, and "won" by Mark Porter. Mark is guaranteed to be "safe" for the upcoming year providing he doesn't develop a hernia, moving the safe around the house. Everyone present, is now anxiously awaiting the next Christmas Party, to see who "doesn't" inherit the safe next year.

Miscellaneous gifts of all left handed gloves, bronzed caving boots, cute little flashlights and a tremendously large turncrew (obviously from an oilfield junkyard) were exchanged.

Donna Anderson, provided certificates of meritorious achievement to most members present. Jody Robertson, presented the awards with his usual flair. Members who were not present to receive their awards will receive them at a later time.

Your newsletter editor was presented the Porta-Pot Award, because due to his remarkable hindsight, he provided Porta-Pottie facilities (included portable outhouse) on a number of cave trips in 1986.

Eric Spears, who was unable to attend the party, received the "I GOT PERMISSION FROM THE WRONG LAND OWNER AWARD." The trip report pertaining to the reasons for Eric's award, is printed in this issue.

Danny's garage is equipped with a regulation size pocket pool table. Most members present were treated to remarkable demonstrations of pool sharkery. Danny provided lessons on nine ball, a fast game favored by professional hustlers due to it's high speed.

The party was fantastic, the officers and membership of the MAVERICK GROTTTO would like to thank Jane and Danny for hosting a fine party.

ARTICLES WANTED

THE MAVERICK BULL, is in need of newsletter articles. These articles should be cave related and non-political in nature. Articles are solicited from members and subscribers alike. Deer season, the cooler time of year and holidays have greatly limited cave trips, so trip reports are few and far between. Cave trips will likely be limited until March or April.

We have many old timers in our midst who have many many trips under their belt and surely twice as many stories to tell and I'm sure much to add to the history of Texas Caving. It would be interesting to those of us who are relatively new to caving to relive some of the "old days" through the eyes of the "old timers." Perhaps if enough articles are received, some form of publication of short stories and Texas caving history could be put together.

Any one who is interested in providing "old timer," stories may provide the article in a good note form if they haven't time to formulate it into a full article. The notes should include approximate dates, trip personnel, and enough detail in chronological order that a story can be formulated. Proper story line credit will be given.

CAVE DIVERS

Dale Ellison informs us that Al Rehlfledt and Jay Smith who recently set the new underwater time record at The University of Texas, Arlington, are NSS certified cave divers. They have indicated they would be willing to dive any sumps we might have to offer in the event there are no cave divers in our organization. They reportedly have the equipment for underwater Video work and will provide videos of dives if requested.

Al and Jay, have a busy schedule with plans for their own future projects including one project in the Gulf of Mexico this summer. They will make time in between their own projects to aid with our exploration needs if desired. Contact Dale for information.

OLD CARBIDE LAMPS
WHERE DO YOU FIND THEM?

by C. L. Corcoran

Since I started caving the foremost question on my mind was, "where do you find those old carbide lamps?" Until a short time ago I figured the only place to find them was on top of an old caver's helmet. My reasoning is easy to understand for that was the only place I had ever seen one.

Those days are now ended and the question answered. The places to go are the southern tradition, Flea Markets. Here you can find anything from Justrite to old English bicycle lamps. For between five and seventy dollars you can pick up any kind of lamp imaginable and some unimaginable. Typical cap lamp prices are between five and fifteen dollars.

Carbide caps lamps were popular with Raccoon hunters before the Advent of flash lights. They were ideal for the Coon hunters because they left the hands free for club, tow sacks or guns. Collectable non-cave use carbides once found wide use with the railroads. The Fort Worth, Dallas area has been the home of many different railroads and collectable carbides should be found at stores dealing in antique railroad paraphernalia. When dealing in railroad lamps, one word of caution, hang on to your pocket book.

Not all flea markets are prime sources so I've included a list of places that have yielded cap lamps at reasonable prices.

1. First Monday, Canton, Tx. Take Highway 19 North out of Canton. The lower section has the best bargains.
2. Big D Bazaar, Dallas, Tx. I-30 at Buckner.
3. First Monday, Weatherford, Tx.
4. McKinney Flea Market, third monday, near McKinney, Tx. Located on Highway 380, west of Highway 75.
5. Cobwebs Antique Mall, 1430 Ave. K., Plano, Tx.
6. Collectors Antique Mall, Plano, Tx.

Next to Cobwebs (5)

7. Azle Antique Mall, Azle, Tx. Highway 199, from Loop 820 in Fort Worth. Open 10:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M. daily.
8. Burleson Antique Mall, Burleson, Tx. Highway 174 South, 4 miles from I-35W. Open Wed. - Sun. 10:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.
9. Worth Antique Center, Fort Worth, Tx. 813 E. 9th, Open 10:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M. daily. Located in Historic King Candy Building.
10. Traders Village Flea Market, Grand Prairie, Tx. Open every weekend.

STYX AND STONES

by C. L. Corcoran

DATE: November 15/16, 1987

DESTINATION: River Styx Cave, Bateman Ranch, King County, Tx.

PERSONNEL: Donna Anderson, John Brooks, Chuck Cluck, Corky Corcoran, Kate Dyer, Mark and Pam Porter, Judy and Andrew Rowe.

EDITORS NOTE: This was the first official trip of THE MAVERICK GROTTTO, although there were no astounding discoveries made, the report is included for historical purposes. River Styx Cave, a Gypsum Cave, is listed as the 13th longest cave in Texas. Cavers, almost all of which are charter members of THE MAVERICK GROTTTO, explored enough unsurveyed passage in 1986, that if added to the existing map or if the cave were resurveyed as has been suggested, it would be the 10th or possibly the 9th longest cave. It should however be noted that since exploration began, heavy rains in the area have collapsed passage and could cause a new survey to fall short of expectation.

Everyone except Chuck Cluck and John Brooks, arrived at the Bateman Ranch, late Friday night, set up camp, and proceeded to hold the traditional pre-caving rituals (party) before retiring to a short nights sleep.

Saturday morning found the weather overcast and cool. As usual the gasoline camp stoves were up to the occasion and wouldn't light. Judy became the heroine of the hour, when she came to the rescue with a propane camp stove allowing those who so desired to enjoy warm victuals to delight the palate.

Bodily needs cared for, the party geared up and set out for the '63 entrance with the exception of Judy who having previously "enjoyed" the cave, declined. She allowed that she would do her communing with nature on the surface.

To the delight of all, the '63 entrance was drier than on a previous trip allowing a mudless entry (almost). The subject previous trip had seen the entrance quite muddy allowing intrepid explorers to more or less "slide" in.

The entrance passage was lined with hibernating bats, which the party managed to pass quietly so only a few were awakened. The party went on and the usual guided tour was held for the new folks. They visited the Junction room, the Window, and the Dome room. The tour shortly stopped when the group encountered water. The passage leading from the Dome room to the Bat Cave Junction had water standing. Everyone agreed they didn't want to get wet then go outside and brave the frigid temperatures.

Retracing their steps, back to the Junction Room, the party tarried checking leads in a low crawl. This crawl runs parallel to the Gypsum Blister passage. The obligatory exploration completed (this passage is checked every trip but nothing ever opens up) the party continued on through the Gypsum Blister Passage and onward toward the '64 entrance. Hibernating bats were again seen near the '64 entrance.

The party visited the area where the '86 entrance was to have been before the last great flood and checked out leads from previous trips. Assuming the temperature would be discouraging to rattlesnakes, a small lead around the '64 sink breakdown was explored. On a previous trip, entry into this passage was thwarted by ominous rattlings by a Herpetary friend(?). (See Styx: The Never Ending Story -- Dec issue - Ed.) For all it was worth, the Rattlesnake could have kept the passage, it went about 10' and ended.

The party proceeded to a small tube passage to allow Kate to experience tight crawling on her first trip out. She and Andrew, made the 60' crawl and found themselves 20' down the main passage from whence they started. Kate, expressed intense joy at being out and mentioned that for her part, that part of the tour could have been eliminated. Returning to the Hatchet Room, Donna checked out a crawlway she and Corky had pushed 250' earlier in the year to see if it was drained from the last flood. She found water standing in several areas and the passage finally sumped short of the original end.

Corky, meanwhile explored a small side passage which led to a small dome room and found the small dome room has now become a large dome room. Gyp caves are fantastic, they constantly change and there's something new to see every trip.

The party exited and found the weather had gotten worse and it was now drizzling rain. Upon their return to camp, they found that John Brooks and Chuck Cluck had arrived and were preparing to go caving.

After John and Chuck departed, the great challenge was trying to build a fire on which to cook steaks and remain dry. The problem was solved by backing two trucks tail to tail with a tarp covering the gap in between. Donna furnished a portable charcoal grill which was set in between truck bumpers. Steaks were cooked to perfection over an overly hot charcoal fire.

John and Chuck, returned from the cave and built their own campfire in the rain. They were so proud of their feat, they declined all offers of shelter and comfort and cooked their meal in the rain.

After all meals, cavers gathered under the improvised shelter of the trucks and various brands of intoxicants were brought out. The remainder of the evening was spent enjoying "spiritual" warmth and sharing war stories.

The following morning the weather was cold but clear. Chuck and John, broke camp and returned to the metroplex while the remaining cavers took Kate to see the River Entrance before breaking their own camp and heading home.

EAGLE CREEK CAVE

by Mark Porter

DATES: November 29, 1986

DESTINATION: Eagle Creek Cave,
Palo Pinto County, Tx.

PERSONNEL: Donna Anderson, Corky Corcoran,
Steve Dalton, Mark Porter,
Eric Spears.

The day broke with low hanging slate gray clouds, a prominent chill in the air and a very good chance of rain. Perfect caving weather! Having overused my allotment of sleep and scurrying to get my gear together Corky roars to a stop out front. We proceeded to chunk the junk in the camper and headed due west for a rendezvous at Donna's.

Upon arrival at Donna's we made a quick pick up of gear and personnel in the presence of Donna and Steve. We gathered together two vehicles and headed for Mineral Wells to pick up the last recruit for this mission.

By the time we hit the city limits of Mineral Wells we were greeted by a nice cold steady rain. After a quick stop by the toasty home of our tour guide Eric Spears we were finally ready for a short cruise to our destination Eagle Creek Cave.

Eagle Creek is located just west of the town of Palo Pinto in Palo Pinto County. The cave had easy access from the highway, we just pulled into a roadside park suited up under the picnic shelter and we were off tramping through the country side in search of adventure.

The cave was easy to find. It is located about a quarter mile and two fence lines from the road side park. It was situated at the base of a thirty foot limestone bluff.

Upon entering the cave, we found that it was comprised one narrow and high passage. The length of the cave was about two hundred feet in length and at points the ceiling was twenty foot high. It was a pleasure to get inside the cave and out of the rain and cold. Most of the cave was walking passage with some crawl. Toward the end of the acceptable passage Donna, Corky and Eric decided to push a tight crawl.

There were two roads to take, Corky and Eric tried the high road and got only thirty feet. Donna tried the low road and made reasonable progress down the passage and around a tight corner. She said it continued but became somewhat cramped. All in all we were in the cave about two hours.

When we exited the cave to take a short break outside, a thunderous voice hailed, "What ya'll doin' down there." We looked up to see three good ol' boys in hunting attire. They proceeded to tell us we were trespassing and better get off the land. Eric countered that he had gotten permission a couple of years back from a woman who lived about a mile away. It turned out that the woman's land ended at the last fence we jumped so we gathered our gear and was escorted by one of our new friends. On the way back we got to talking and he asked if we had seen the witches hole. Having not heard of it he proceeded to show us the hole.

The sinkhole was large, thirty by forty feet and twenty feet deep. It was filled partially with water and looked to have potential because the water disappeared under the bluff in the sink. Moving around the sink, an opening could be seen under the bluff but it was impossible to tell how far back it went. Further trips will be made to explore this sink in warmer weather.

Upon leaving the land we were met by the land owner who said we were welcome anytime but deer season. By this time we were about frozen to the bone and ready for the comforts of home.

CAVING IN HILL COUNTY

by Butch Fralia

DATE: December 20, 1986

DESTINATION: Blum Cave(s), Hill County, Texas

PERSONNEL: Corky Corcoran, Dale Ellison, Butch Fralia, Arlene Heintz, Jay Jorden, Shane the Wonder Dog.

Forty Five minutes south of Fort Worth, off Highway 174, lies the city of Blum. A small city of 600+ population, Blum is located in the North Western corner of Hill County on the banks of the Nolan River.

It seems to have been there forever and always had about the same population. Blum was originally a railroad stop until new tracks were built about a mile west of town (across the river) and the old tracks torn out. The only remaining evidence of the railroad is the old station and roadbed going south out of town. The only changes since 1925, have been the addition of two small convenience stores, both of which sell beer.

When asked the location of Blum, the reply is usually "Blum out in the middle of nowhere." My Mother's birth certificate states she was born there in 1925. I asked where she was born in the city and learned she wasn't born in Blum at all but in a Ranch House between Blum and Kimball. Being on the railroad, Blum was the largest town around. It had the post office so that determined her "official" place of birth.

My Grand Father and his brother explored the caves during their childhood (circa 1910) and had gone back so far they'd gotten under the town and could hear wagons passing overhead. Since the cave is located about a mile and a half out of town, this sounded pretty impressive. Modern cavers will be interested to know that he sometimes used a kerosene lantern but most of the time went in without lights (the flashlight probably hadn't been invented). The usual method was to tie a string on a nearby tree near the opening and explore in darkness.

The area is very interesting both for it's natural scenery and historical interest. The Blum caves are located about 1 1/2 mile southwest of Blum on the Nolan River. Approximately three miles south lies a Ranch with an Indian Burial sight which has been excavated by the Smithsonian Institute. The Indians are reported pre-Comanche and departed the area when Spanish explorers came to the area.

Somewhere in the area is reported to be an old Spanish Mine. I haven't been able to prove it's existence and have no idea what would be mined there unless it would be Chert for spear and arrow heads.

On trip day, everyone gathered at my house prior to the southern journey. Everyone loaded into the Speleo Trooper, except Corky. Corky had to go to Evant before returning home so he followed in his faithful Nissan truck.

On Highway 174, South of Rio Vista and several miles before the Blum "turnoff" the party made it's first stop at the Grave site of Phillip Nolan. The site is one of nine potential sites known to the Texas Historical Society for Nolan's grave. For whatever reason, this one was selected as "the one" and a Historical Marker erected. Nolan was killed on a trading trip into Texas and was buried under the tree by his Negro slaves, Caesar and Robert. Legend says that Nolan had ten Jack loads of Gold which have never been located. This legend makes cave hunting difficult because if land owners have a cave, they know it contains the missing gold and you'll get it. They wont go into the caves themselves because of "bad air."

Moving right along, the group drove through Blum (Dale, blinked and missed it) and located a gravel road (I blinked and missed the road on first pass) which provides public access to public lands along the Nolan River. Corky parked his truck and all proceeded to the caves in the Speleo Trooper via 4-wheel drive. Located on public land, on the Nolan River the caves are accessible via 4-wheel drive year round or by pickup with high ground clearance during dry weather. They are virtually impossible to find without a guide. I once walked past the entrance twice in the same day, within 50' and missed it both times.

There are four true solution formed caves (one on private property) and one fissure cave. Our group proceeded into the main cave (Blum Cave) and began to survey. Jay and Arlene did the instrument/recording work while Corky and Dale did the taping and located the stations. Shane was official observer while Butch was official guide, driver and nap taker.

The main cave turned out to be about 70' long ending in breakdown. A gravel quarry on adjacent private property apparently closed the remainder of the cave during the '50's. Walking through the survey points on the surface showed the cave to end at the edge of the Quarry. The legend says the cave originally went under the city of Blum. The Quarry owner reports that when quarry blasting took place, a blast crew drilled a hole and lost 12 sticks of dynamite which were never recovered.

The Main Cave and two "smaller" caves are located in bluffs along the Nolan. The main cave

entrance is inaccessible without a tall ladder or vertical gear. Those "in the know," find entrance through a small hole along the top edge of the bluff. This cave is interesting because to go to the back of the cave requires as much work as some 1000' caves which wont be discussed in this article. Of the two smaller caves, one requires a belay line to scale the sloped bluff (it's only about 10' long) and the other requires a vertical drop over the edge. It's not far enough to use full vertical gear, just a rope and it's also mud choked.

The fourth solution cave is located in the adjacent Gravel Quarry (now abandoned). It was exposed during the excavation. It appears to "go" but it's too small (even for Donna Anderson and Shane wasn't interested) for any humans we know.

The fissure cave (named 17 Rattlers -- a long story in itself, I have the rattles for show and tell) was explored and surveyed by Corky, Dale and Jay. On egress from the fissure, one member became stuck but names wont be mentioned to prevent embarrassment. Many jokes were made about calling cave rescue. Dale commented that we couldn't call because the rescue representative wouldn't be home to take the call due to his being the one stuck.

All good things must come to an end, it was the day of the Christmas Party and getting late. We attempted a 4-wheel drive tour across the Nolan where there are many majestic bluffs with potential for more small caves. Unfortunately the river was too high for crossing due to recent rains. It was necessary to put off the sight seeing tour until later.

When we dropped Corky off at his truck, he struck up a conversation with some locals about local caves. He heard of a large bluff exposure with cave openings, further south on Highway 174. He couldn't go, but the rest of us set off for a quick tour.

The supposed caves turned out to be large shelters behind the Indian Lodge Camp, on Lake Whitney. Although hoping to locate more caves, everyone agreed that the majesty of the shelters made the side trip worth while. With that all returned to the metroplex.

The Texas Speleological Survey (TSS) only has

one cave on record for Hill County. This is Mart Cole Cave, a 350' water cave, exact location unknown. It was reported in The Texas Caver, in 1971 by S.B. Pole, who now resides in South Austin. It may be on Lake Whitney, near the dam. There is reportedly a cave there which is accessible by boat during low water years. There is a legend of a "monster" cave with indian pictographs at the entrance, somewhere near Blum but to date it hasn't been located. When the Maps are complete, copies will be sent to Bill Elliot, in Austin, to incorporate into state records.

COMPUTERIZED CAVING

by Butch Fralia

Modern Computer Technology is creeping into the caving world. THE MAVERICK BULL, for instance is typed into a word processor, run on an AT&T 6300 IBM compatible computer. After spell checking, editing, etc. it is converted into an ASCII text file for processing through a typesetting software package.

Bill Elliot, (Texas Speleological Survey), myself and others are working to set up a computerized listing of all Texas Caves. This was attempted in 1968, using a mainframe computer at The University of Texas. The Database was on IBM cards. It has not been kept up to date. There are many records which need to be added and the whole record keeping system being renovated. Computerizing the records will allow rapid access to cave data, allow quick studies to list out all caves by county, and statistical studies to determine longest, deepest, newest and etc.

A cave survey package called SMAPS, is available at a very reasonable price. The package reduces survey data then produces line plots which can be printed out on a dot matrix graphics printer.

One Oklahoma caver, has all the Oklahoma caves on an IBM PC-XT in a line plot format. He simply enters the name of the desired cave into the program and it provides the line plot.

With all this modern technology, the fun may go out of caving!