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THE MAVERICK BULL is the monthly newsletter of THE MAVERICK GROTTO, an internal organization in the National Speleological Society (NSS 6-322). The editors invite 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. Items should be of interest to cavers and be non-political in nature.

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

COMPLIMENTARY NEWSLETTERS THE MAVERICK GROTTO will provide complimentary newsletters to persons or organizations who provide cave access (i.e. landowners) or otherwise provide assistance to cavers. The Grotto will also provide three free issues to persons interested in becoming members.

MEMBERSHIP POLICY: Any caver with interests, beliefs, and actions consistent with the purposes of THE MAVERICK GROTTO and the National Speleological Society is eligible for membership. 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. At least one sponsor must attend the meeting at which the membership vote is taken. A two-thirds majority vote of the members present will be required for acceptance.

MEETINGS: Meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month, at SMOKEY'S RIBS, 5300 East Lancaster, Fort Worth. It is a little less than one mile west of Loop 820 East and next door to a K Mart. The time is 7:00 P.M., and the food is good.

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CAVE RESCUE: Call Collect 512-686-0234

CALENDAR

Ongoing	Monthly work trip to Colorado Bend State Park. Weekend of the second Saturday of each month.
September 8-10	Colorado Bend State Park Work Trip.
September 12	Maverick Grotto Meeting.
September 28	Last day to submit material for the October newsletter.
September 29-30	Texas Old Timer's Reunion at Wimberley, Texas (same as last year).
October 3-7	National Cave Management Symposium, sponsored by TSA, TP&WD, and ACMA. To be held in New Braunfels, Texas.
October ?	Possible Maverick Grotto Anniversary PARTY at M&W Ranch.
October 10	Maverick Grotto Meeting.
October 13-15	Colorado Bend State Park Work Trip.
November 1	Last day to submit material for the November newsletter.
November 10-12	Colorado Bend State Park Work Trip.
November 14	Maverick Grotto Meeting.
December 26-30	MEXPELEO 89 in Ciudad Valles, San Luis Potosi, Mexico The 1st major international caving convention in Mexico

ON OUR COVER

The Maverick Grotto is going international! The minutes discuss an upcoming cave trip to England. Russell Hill just presented a program on Mexican caving, and MEXSPELEO is coming up this December. Now, Woodrow Thomas sends us the map on the cover and a short accompanying article from a caving buddy of his, Phil Reeder, who did some extensive caving in the Phillipines.

MINUTES OF THE AUGUST GROTTO MEETING

CAVING IN THE PHILLIPINES

The regular monthly meeting of the Maverick Grotto was held Tuesday August 8th at Smokey's Ribs in Fort Worth.

Treasurer Teresa White reported that we currently have no debts, and actually have a balance of \$532.50.

Librarian Russell Hill continues to ask for donations to the Grotto Library. It is slowly growing, thanks to Russell's efforts. James Savage volunteered to help Russell construct a computer data base to catalog the contents of the library.

Editor David Finrock reported that since our regular printers, Steve and Pat Gentry, were at the NSS convention, the Maverick Bull had to be commercially printed, for the first time. Shari Finrock had it printed at Child's Book Store in Arlington for only \$13.91. But the copies were uncollated and unstapled. That meant a lot more work for the editors with this system.

Dale Ellison reported that several of the July newsletters had lost their peelable address labels and had been returned to him, undeliverable. If anyone is missing their July issue, contact the editors for a replacement copy.

The editors also appealed for more trip reports. We know you're caving out there. Let us know about it! It doesn't have to be a major literary work. Just tell us who is going where, and what projects are underway.

A major caving trip to England this coming November is still in the works. Danny Sherrod and Russell Hill are definitely going, with others possible. Al Rehfeldt suggested that while in England, they invite English cavers to come stay with us sometime, as a Good Will Act from the Maverick Grotto.

Other upcoming trips include a CRF trip to Fitton Cave, in Arkansas. Also, the Labor Day expedition headed by Arlene Heintz, to a number of big Missouri caves. There was also a possible trip to Fort Stockton, also over Labor Day.

Butch Fralia asked if there is going to be an anniversary party this October. It was discussed briefly, and decided that there would probably be a return to the M&W Ranch near Glen Rose. Further details will be decided upon at the September meeting.

Jay Jordan and Steve and Pat Gentry gave a brief report on their experiences at the NSS Convention in Sewanee, Tennessee. They all agreed that the Photo Salon was one of the best parts of the Convention, although they didn't agree with the eventual winning photo. Next year's NSS Convention will be held in California. It will have to go some to top this year. With 1320 cavers in attendance, it was the largest convention ever.

A brief discussion was held concerning the possibility of holding a Grotto raffle or treasure hunt, in order to raise funds for purchasing more Grotto equipment. It was also mentioned that the grotto's Stokes Litter and other equipment should be taken on all official grotto caving trips.

The meeting was then adjourned, and a slide program was presented by Russell Hill. He discussed caving (and rappelling from avocado trees) at La Hoya de Salas, a caving area near Ciudad Victoria, in Tamaulipas, Mexico.

(The following is provided by Woodrow Thomas. His caving buddy, Phil Reeder, is currently working on his doctorate at the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee. Reed recently completed a project for The Phillipine government concerning hydrology.)

I hope you got my postcard from the Phillipines. About my trip, it was fantastic. We were on a little island about 400 km south of Manila that was primarily composed of limestone, had thousands of mogetes (a conical-shaped limestone hill, like small tower karst) and was covered up with caves. During our two-week stay there we were treated like first-class, grade A, number one kind-of-guys. They actually appreciated us coming there to help them with some of their water problems. Little did they know we were there just to pick up chicks.

In all, we caved 10 of the 14 days we were on Bohol Island. We explored and mapped 9 caves during our stay. The caves for the most part were good. Some really huge chambers, but a lot of them ended abruptly after 100 m. Explored some low, nasty stuff, found caves with huge bat colonies, the most I've ever seen, literally thousands swarming around you, urinating on you and so on. Went one day to the hinterlands, where the NPA (National Peoples Army) hangs out. They are bad dudes. They want the Phillipines to become communist, so to get their point across, they blow stuff up, rob banks, ambush soldiers, etc... We had an official escort and went early in the morning, which is the safest time, because the NPA are farmers by day and terrorists by night. We found 2 huge cave entrances with tons of air, but due to time restraints we could only run down a little borehole before we had to turn back. It looks real promising for the future, if the politics ever get straightened out.

Other activities included slamming down quarts of San Miguel beer like they were water, and drinking the local preference, Tu-ba, a coconut wine that packs a wallop. American money lasts forever over there. We were there for two weeks, and tried as hard as we could to spend money, and with meals, room, booze, local travel, occasional hotel rooms, etc., I only spent 180 dollars. I am seriously considering going back there to do my doctoral research. There are many more caves to be explored and beers to drink.

Bonogan Cave #1 was very neat. I think it may be a fairly extensive system which continually breaks down because it is fairly shallow. It was located in rebel-held territory and the time we could spend there was limited. Next time I go back (hopefully in September 1990) I'll look past the breakdown in Bonogan #2. I think it continues. Also it was so profusely decorated that it was like negotiating a maze through the formations in chest-deep water.

Look for some of my stuff to be published in the NSS News. I have all intentions of submitting some stuff in the near future.

Aloha, Phil

CAVERS ON STAGE !!!

Believe it or not, a local playwright is now premiering a new play called The Death of Floyd Collins. As you might expect, Tim Hatcher's new play, according to the Dallas Observer, is a "fact-based play about Floyd Collins, the man who discovered and was trapped in Mammoth Cave, Kentucky". Well, sort of fact-based, anyway. He was actually trapped in Sand Cave, of course.

But even with some factual lapses, it's not often we get a chance to see a play about a caver. The Death of Floyd Collins is playing at the Addison Centre Theatre this Thursday and Friday night, 8 - 9 September, at 8:15 PM. The theatre is at 15600 Julian in Addison. Tickets are \$10, and reservations are available at (214) 934-3913.

Thanks to Dave Milhollin for this information.



DESTINATION: Colorado Bend State Park

TRIP DATE: July 7-9, 1989

REPORTED BY: Butch Fraile

TRIP LEADER: Butch Fraile

PERSONNEL: Butch Fraile Jennifer Fraile Keith Heuse
Alvia Hill Jean Night Kelly Night

Synopsis: Summer heat, ticks, flat tires and conflicting activity slowed this month Colorado Bend work trip to an all time low in attendance and accomplishment. A new cave prospect discovered on the June trip is partially explored, revealing a potentially major cave discovery.

Late Friday night (11:30 P.M.), Butch and Jennifer Fraile arrived and were shocked to realize there was only one other vehicle at the caverns campsite. Alvia Hill, got out of bed stating he'd arrived at 8:00 P.M. and was getting lonesome. Alvia waited for a time and at approximately 12:00 P.M., Gene Night arrived from Fort Worth. Faithful Keith Heuse was occupied and wouldn't be able to join the party until late Saturday afternoon. The caverns retired for the evening fully expecting sore vehicles on site the following morning.

Saturday Morning, the camp was bare as the night before. Park Superintendent Tarin, drove to the camp at about 8:30 A.M. and asked if we'd got our weekends confused? This was not the case however and arrangements were made to meet at the residence at 9:30 to pick up the air meter and other equipment. The plans for the morning included visiting a cave located in Gorman Creek (Lively Pasture) during the June Trip. The cave represented a promising lead since during heavy rain, it tends to take all the water in the upper part of Gorman Creek.

The party, including Superintendent Tarin, set then proceeded to the creek bed and cave entrance. The small entrance appeared to require vertical equipment and Alvia Hill was small enough to get through the entrance with equipment. Armed with the Air Meter, he dropped the entrance to a breakdown floor some thirty feet below. The oxygen level dropped to nineteen and one-half percent but there was heavy airflow coming through the breakdown. Alvia dug through the breakdown and made an opening which allowed him to continue climbing. He continued to report his progress but finally reached a depth where he could no longer be heard. When Alvia finally emerged he had a promising report of the cave.

The cave drops for about thirty feet until a breakdown floor was encountered. At first glance it appears otherwise, but the entrance is climbable. Alvia dug out part of the floor which was a talus to the passage below. He climbed for approximately 70 feet until he reached a point where rope is definitely required. At a depth of one hundred feet, the passage drops for approximately twenty to thirty feet requiring vertical equipment. From there, the passage widens continuing downstream under Gorman Creek in the direction of Horseshoe Chimney. The passage sloped downward but there is air flow and the air quality never dropped below nineteen and one-half percent.

The caverns hadn't expected the cave to continue on in such a blatant manner and had come prepared for other work in the pasture. Butch Fraile was attired in cut off jeans cave gear. The party decided to attend to a couple of other chores then return to camp for a change of clothing and equipment. The other chores didn't pan out because of equipment failure. The intent had been to install "Do Not Enter" signs on cave entrances but the drill refused to cooperate with the battery becoming fully discharged before one hole could be drilled.

Jean Night had brought her son Kelly who had never been in a cave. He was taken to Gorman Creek Crevices which has an easy entrance and a large room immediately inside the entrance. The most inviting characteristic on a 100+ day is it's cool 70 degree temperature. In the cave was evidence of some water activity from the spring rains and a Texas Cave Scorpion was observed. The Texas Cave Scorpion, Vulgarious Redelli (I think) is found only in Texas Caves and isn't that common. They've been seen in Kickapoo Caverns and 600 feet back in Gorman Creek Crevices making both caves significant for biological interest. The scorpion dwells in caves, does not visit the surface yet has full visual capability. It's also black, making it obviously different from most scorpions.

On the way back to camp, Keith Heuse was encountered on his way into Lively Pasture. He listened to the cave tale and took Gene and Her son back to the cave entrance while Alvia and Butch went back to camp for equipment. Alvia was short on time as he had to be back in Waco for some sort of wedding rehearsal for his wedding the following weekend. He thought he'd just have time to drop the pit and leave directly from the pasture. The change was made and equipment gathered. On the way back to Lively Pasture, Alvia had a blowout. His spare was the little do-nut type good for fifty miles if lucky. Alvia decided this wouldn't do for the pasture and decided to return to Waco hoping for better luck another time. He dropped Butch off at the residence to hike down and join the others.

Butch hiked down toward the cave, the 100 degree weather making it a pleasure to carry two packs, one with caving equipment and the other with vertical equipment. When he neared the cave, he heard Keith's Volkswagon Van start up and waited under a tree for the others to arrive. The heat being what it was, it was decided that the cave would be put off until another time. By this time it was about 6:00 P.M. Alvia was already gone and Jean had to leave Saturday night for Sunday commitments.

Sunday morning, found Butch, Jennifer and Keith as the only survivors. Superintendent Tarin arrived at 9:00 A.M. to show the caverns a pit he'd located in an area the caverns had yet to visit. They located the pit in an area where a hiking trail was to be located (which was how the pit was located). The pit was marked for another time. It would be a project cave since the entrance would have to be cleared to allow ingress. Hiking the area, an old cedar road was located which would be suitable for a hiking trail. It provides a good view of the area and best of all wouldn't require labor to remove brush.

On the way back to the vehicle, a large dirt filled sinkhole was noted. At the sinkhole bottom was an area which had obviously taken water. Poking around with sticks, the caverns discovered the floor to have a shallow dirt covering beneath which was small gravel. Sticks could be pushed down three feet into the floor. This was noted as another possible project cave requiring digging.

The rest of the morning was spent looking at maps and making plans for future trips. It was discussed that the park would be shut down for both December and January this year. Alternatives were discussed as perhaps the park property across the Colorado River could be explored while the hunt was in progress. The area is promising and yet to be explored.

The August trip should see continued exploration of the unnamed pit in Gorman Creek (Lively Pasture). This promise to be a major discovery of Geological interest due to it's potential of being a major recharge for the local aquifer plus the fact it blows air indicating another entrance. There aren't any entrances in the immediate area.

OPEN WATER SCUBA CLASS

TCJC is offering a Continuing Education Course on Open Water Scuba Diving. Our own Dave Millhollin will be teaching it on Friday evenings from 7:00 until 10:00 pm. Classes start on September 15 and end October 27. There will also be Saturday and Sunday open water sessions. NAUI and PADI certification will be offered. Students must supply their own mask, fins, and snorkel for all classes and rental equipment for the open water weekend. Total cost of tuition for the course is \$88.00. This is NOT a cavern diving course but is a prerequisite. For more information contact Dave at 277-0503.

DEVELOPER VISITS LEHUGILLA CAVE

(The following is reprinted from "What's New at Carlsbad Caverns and Guadalupe Mountains National Parks, 07/21/89")

Roy Davis, owner and operator of Cumberland Caverns in Tennessee, and a contract cave developer with considerable experience, visited Lechugilla Cave July 20 at the request of the city's Lechugilla Cave Task Force. He was accompanied on an 18-hour trip to the western borehole area by Art and Peggy Palmer, Dave McClurg, Larry Johnson, and David Ek. Carlsbad mayor Bob Forrest also entered the cave and went as far as the top of Boulder Falls. Davis reported to the Task Force on July 24 that he did not believe development of the cave would be feasible, even if it were not in a wilderness area, and that development would result in great harm to the cave's delicate resources.

Prompted largely by the developer Roy Davis, and his recommendations, the Lechugilla Cave Task Force has agreed with cavers, that the world-class cave should remain a wilderness.

The following article is reprinted from the August 10th edition of the Carlsbad Current-Argus.

CURRENT-ARGUS, Carlsbad, N.M. Thursday, August 10, 1989—3

Task Force: leave Lechuguilla alone

By Chris Vaughn
Staff Writer

The Lechuguilla Cave Task Force agreed Wednesday to recommend leaving Lechuguilla Cave undeveloped and promoting it as an undeveloped resource.

The 10-member task force, appointed by Mayor Bob Forrest in March, began formulating its recommendation to him Wednesday. The group will meet again next Wednesday to finalize its recommendation to the mayor about how to promote Lechuguilla Cave.

Lechuguilla Cave is located southwest of Carlsbad on congressionally-protected National Parks Service land in the Guadalupe Mountains.

It is currently the seventh longest cave in the nation at 36.7 miles, and is the second deepest at 1,476 feet.

The Lechuguilla Cave Task Force was charged with three goals and objectives, including "to determine the potential impact of Lechuguilla on Carlsbad and how should this important discovery be promoted."

The consensus of the committee was to push heavily for a bill currently in the Senate which would establish a cave research institute near Carlsbad. The bill, authored by Sen. Jeff Bingaman, D-N.M., was recently passed by a Senate committee and will go before the full Senate early next month.

The cave research institute bill would establish one

of only three research institutes in the world for the geological, biological, anthropological and other types of studies to be done in Lechuguilla Cave and other caves in the Guadalupe.

Task force member Mike Hood, also president of the Chamber of Commerce, said he envisions five years down the road a cave research institute located in Carlsbad.

The institute would house media presentations for the public, research laboratories for scientists, and "outfitter" types of stores and training centers where members of the public can train to go in the undeveloped caves of the Guadalupe, Hood continued.

"We need to keep Lechuguilla Cave and the other caves in the public eye," Hood said. "We need to get people so interested in caves that they want to stick around here and learn how to go in."

Another task force member, Dottie Oden, said she liked Hood's idea, but would not agree with letting members of the general public into the cave.

"I think it (Lechuguilla Cave) should be limited to research people only," Oden said. "I think having a cave of that importance not open to everyone is what is appealing for a cave research institute. It should be closed to that type (recreational) of caving."

Currently, the National Parks Service does not let recreational cavers into Lechuguilla. Ron Kerbo, a cave

specialist with the NPS, said the cave is only open to people doing exploration, inventory, and research.

Some members of the general public may go into the cave after proper training, but only as an assistant to the explorers or researchers.

Kerbo, who has said he did/believe Lechuguilla should be commercially developed, voiced support for Hood's proposal.

"This community can make a very positive impact on cave conservation," he said.

The two other goals and objectives charged to the task force were "to outline a process by which the representatives of the community, the NPS, and the New Mexico congressional delegation can strengthen their relationships and work together to ensure maximum benefit of this discovery" and "to review the findings of the Lechuguilla Project, Inc., and determine a method to make it possible for future findings of this group to be made available to the city government."

The committee agreed to recommend to the mayor he establish a standing committee including members of the city, NPS, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, and Pecos Valley Grotto to meet at least three times a year about new cave findings.

It also is planning to recommend to the mayor he keep in close contact with New Mexico's congressmen concerning Bingaman's pending bill in the Senate.

The following valuable caving survey was taken from the Caver's Echo, the newsletter of the North Texas Speleological Society in Wichita Falls.

MEMBER'S SURVEY

Please read the following questions and answer a, b, c, d, or e.

- 1) If I could choose any cave to visit with the NTSS it would be:
 - a. one with lots of tight crawlways.
 - b. one we can't find even with the directions on the map.
 - c. one with a vertical shaft six feet deeper than our rope.
 - d. one with an elevator and a concession stand.
 - e. one connecting with the Coors plant.

- 2) The thing I like most about caving is:
 - a. the fellowship with other cavers.
 - b. the great food.
 - c. getting out alive.
 - d. the pretty postcards.
 - e. the beer.

- 3) What scares me most is:
 - a. the possibility of rattlesnakes in the entrances.
 - b. the possibility of getting dirt in my sandwich.
 - c. the possibility of getting killed before finishing the cave.
 - d. the possibility of getting my pants dirty.
 - e. sobriety.

- 4) My idea of a good cave trip is:
 - a. Crawlways, mud, bats, chimneying and a long hike.
 - b. a mile of walking passage, with decorations.
 - c. El Precipicio hand-over-hand.
 - d. paved trails and a cute guide.
 - e. lots of beer afterwards.

- 5) My favorite cave is:
 - a. Bustamante.
 - b. Endless.
 - c. Manley.
 - d. Longhorn Caverns.
 - e. I don't know any of the names, but there was lots of beer.

- 6) Something I have always wanted to do in the NTSS is:
 - a. get on the Executive Committee.
 - b. get off the Executive Committee.
 - c. be newsletter editor, trip coordinator, and secretary all at once.
 - d. push the little buttons on the slide projector.
 - e. use the dues money to buy lots of beer.

SCORING: If you chose mostly a's, you are a typical caver with less than five years experience. If you chose mostly b's, you are a typical caver with lots of caving to your credit, and you have mellowed with wisdom. If you chose mostly c's, you are a fanatic/super caver/fool, and you should hang around Bill Stephens as much as you can, because he deserves people like you. If you chose mostly d's, you are probably the only person in the club who has paid the dues on time every year. You would be an excellent candidate for president, because you probably couldn't do any real harm in a year's time. If you answered mostly e's, your dues are due.

ANOTHER MAVERICK GROTTO WEDDING !!!

There must be something in the air this year (or maybe it's in the guano). For the third time this year, wedding bells are ringing in the Maverick Grotto.

Alvis Hill and Dawn Burow were married July 15th inside Longhorn Caverns. Alvis even sent a trip report of their honeymoon. No, not THAT part of their honeymoon!

HIGH SIERRA CAVING

Alvis Hill

While making our wedding plans, Dawn and I wanted to choose a honeymoon site as unique and natural as the wedding. We opted for a week's stay in the wilds of central California: we had never been there before, heard it was nice, and were pretty sure my pocket pager wouldn't reach that far. We reserved some tourist time in Sequoia National Park, saved a few days for backpacking, and worked in a quick trip to the coast.

Now, I should have known it would happen. Dawn does some checking around and sure enough, there's some caving to be done in the park! You mean you want to go caving on our honeymoon? Not exactly the kind of exploring I had in mind, but, well o.k.

The flight out was uneventful. We landed in Fresno, picked up our rental car and made the 90 minute drive up into the mountains. We spent the first two nights in a cozy cabin nestled under the massive redwoods. During this time we also visited Crystal Cave, a very nice commercial cave run by the Park Service. It features some very nice formations and an underground stream which slices through channels of pure marble. It is definitely worth seeing.

The third day found us loading our packs and preparing to trek up White Chief Canyon, located in the Mineral King section of Sequoia. The trail is fairly short but steep, starting at 7500' and rising to about 10,000' over four miles. We set up camp at the end of a beautiful alpine meadow and decided to kick back in the tent for a while. We were rudely awakened by a strange hissing noise. This little critter called a marmot had somehow managed to turn on my propane stove! It startled him almost as much as it did us. After the excitement subsided, we decided it was time to explore the White Chief Creek area.

Walking upstream above our camp, we followed the creek to a resurgence point that looked enterable. We traced the stream through a maze of beautifully etched marble and granite until it popped out at the other end, about 100 yards away. We had never seen anything like it. Continuing upstream, the steep canyon soon wore down our high-altitude endurance and we decided to call it a day.

The next day we started afresh up the canyon. The creek flowed over a waterfall and when we climbed to the top we discovered that it was gushing full-blown out of the ground! We checked a lead next to the stream but it pinched off quickly. Further exploration of the area revealed a huge pile of marble breakdown scattered with large sinkholes and cave entrances. Although leery of doing much caving with just two people, we elected to proceed cautiously. Several sinkholes were 30 to 60 foot pits which would have been fun to drop, but instead we chose a horizontal entrance measuring about 2 feet by 5 feet. The passage wound over and around marble breakdown and tight chimneys. After spending about 45 minutes in the cave we reached another entrance. Upon exiting the cave, we found that we were only about 10 feet from where we had entered!

We bopped in and out of a few more entrances and then checked out a large entrance in the rock face above the breakdown pile. After carefully crawling over the mound of snow which still partially blocked the entrance, we found ourselves in good walking passage which someone had carefully marked with string. We were intrigued to hear water running somewhere below us-- the creek was running through the cave and we had to find the stream passage!

Following the string seemed logical. It carried us through several rooms and past other entrances which were all too steep to exit through without vertical gear. Finally we heard the stream approaching. We climbed over a rock outcropping and were in the stream room-- except that it was somewhere far below us at the bottom of a drop that I couldn't see the bottom of. Anyway, we ended up backtracking through the cave toward the first entrance, squeezed a passage we missed earlier, and were rewarded with the most incredible stream passage we had ever seen, complete with string.

The stream had cut deep channels through white and gray marble and the water came gushing through, weaving a wild course down the passage. My light caught something of a peculiar orange color in the bottom of the stream. It turned out to be some kind of a pipe (of the smoking variety), made of stone and about 6 inches long. It was obviously water worn, but I couldn't tell if it was a genuine artifact. We left it there for the next person to wonder about.

We continued upstream for several hundred feet before encountering yet another entrance. It looked kind of tricky, but we managed to get out in one piece. We walked overland to the head of the canyon and found the area where the creek went underground. We were able to enter and covered more of the stream passage before exiting. A through trip of the cave was possible, but common sense prevailed and we headed back to camp.

We hiked out the next day and went on to more normal pursuits for the rest of the trip, but our short caving experience was the high point. There are reportedly over 80 caves in the Sequoia/Kings Canyon Park system, many of which can be entered with permission. If anyone would like to get together a High Sierra cave trip, here are two people who would really like to go!

The letter reprinted on the back page explains the new Forest Service policy of mailing keys with the permits for caves in the Guadalupe Ranger District.



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Lincoln
National
Forest

Guadalupe RD
Federal Bldg. Rm. 159
Carlsbad, NM 88220
505 885-4181

Reply To: 2350

Date: March 27, 1989

The Texas Caver
c/o Dale Pate
P.O. Box 1211
Austin, Tx. 78769

Dear Mr. Pate,

A decision has been made in reference to the current cave management permit system.

Based upon our review of the caver questionnaire, input from interest groups and public response, the Guadalupe Ranger District has determined that mailing of the cave permits with keys would be conducive to a more efficient permitting system. The policy of mailing the cave permits will become effective April 1, 1989.

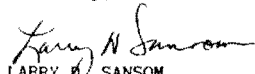
This policy change will thus effect the policies and guidelines incorporated into the current cave permit. Office visits will be encouraged for those visitors who are applying for cave permits on a first time basis. Meeting with our staff will promote cooperation and educational efforts, prepare the visitor for safety and known cave hazards, establish awareness of the current travel policies, brief visitors of current fire conditions, and provide us the opportunity to meet our caving public.

Please review the permit and share the new information with experienced or non experienced cave visitors.

I would like to thank the entire caving community for the cooperation in completing the caver questionnaire, for submitting responses, and visiting with our district staff concerning this issue.

Thank you for your interest in the Lincoln National Forest.

Sincerely,


LARRY D. SANSON
District Ranger



Caring for the Land and Serving People

FS 4200-204/488