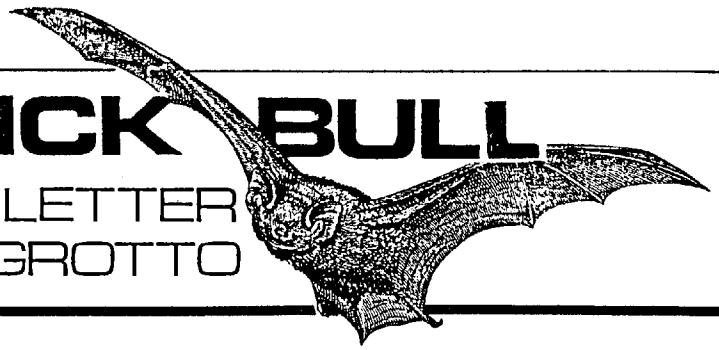

THE MAVERICK BULL

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
OF THE MAVERICK GROTTO



VOLUME 5 NUMBER 12

DECEMBER 1990



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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.

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 GROTTO address at the time of publication. Other organizations should contact the grotto at the address herein.

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

REMEMBER... NO REGULAR GROTTO MEETING THIS MONTH

Dec 1-2	Southwest Region's Winter Technical Regional: Sponsored by the Lubbock Area Grotto in Lubbock. Contact Kitty Parker (806) 792-9853
Dec 8-9	Colorado Bend State Park Work Trip
Dec 15	D/FW Grotto Christmas Party
Dec 21	Maverick Grotto Christmas Party at the Sherrod's in Joshua (instead of the regular monthly meeting)
Dec 29	Lechugilla Survey Project ---Contact Pat Kambesis at (404) 378-2836
Jan 8	Regular monthly meeting of the Maverick Grotto
Jan 12-13	Colorado Bend State Park Work Trip
Jun 30-Jul 5	NSS Convention at Cobleskill, New York

ON THE COVER

Our Cover Cavers this month are Teresa White, Pooch Amy and Butch Fralia. Here, they are admiring the view in Wild Woman Cave, one of the foremost caves in the Arbuckle-Simpson outcrop, in southern Oklahoma.

MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER MEETING

The Maverick Grotto met on Tuesday evening, 13 November 1990 for its regular monthly meeting. Chairman Dale Ellison called the meeting to order.

An announcement was made about the upcoming 1990 Southwestern Region Winter Technical meeting to take place 1-2 December in Lubbock, and hosted by the LAG.

An announcement was also made about an offer to sell old Texas caving publications collected by a man in Pennsylvania. (See details later in this newsletter).

It was also announced that Mark Porter would be making the CRF trip to Carlsbad over the coming Thanksgiving weekend.

Elections for grotto officers for 1991 were held. (Results elsewhere on this page).

Plans were finalized for the annual Christmas party. After discussions of pros and cons for holding the party on the 8th, 15th, or 21st of December, a vote was taken. And the clear winner was Friday evening 21 December beginning at 7:30 and lasting until... well, until we're through partying! It will again take place at Danny and Jane Sherrod's house in Joshua, south of Fort Worth. (Look for the map in this newsletter). And Danny was emphatic about suggesting that everyone consider bringing tents and sleeping bags and staying the night. Don't take a chance on drinking too much and then trying to drive.

It was moved and approved, that the grotto supply a keg of beer and two cases of soft drinks for the party. Steve Jung agreed to pick them up and bring them to the party. Everyone else should bring munchies, and anything else they might want to drink. And don't forget your white elephant gifts!

TRIP REPORTS:

A brief recap of the events at TOTR was told. Bruce Anderson will be writing the minutes for the short special Maverick Grotto meeting that took place there.

Danny Sherrod told about his recent trip to Mexico, in the Precepcio area near Bustamante.

Greg Mooty related his experiences with Woodrow Thomas and Dave "Cave" McClung in Mystic Cave in Oklahoma. That included the story about Dave pulling a loose boulder from the ceiling and nearly causing a cave-in!

At the last work trip to Colorado Bend, a group of Explorer Scouts were given a taste of caving. And Butch Fralia, Ed Young, and Rafal and Wojciech Kedzierski, among others, did manage to get in some more surveying.

Kevin Glover reported on his recent trip to the Guads in New Mexico. It included trips through Endless and Ogle Caves, as well as a sleet

and snow storm.

Greg Mooty told us about the latest from River Styx. The '64 passage is completely open now as a hands-and-knees crawl. The '90 entrance is tight, but easier than the old '63 entrance nearby. And from the look of things on the surface, there will probably be a new '91 entrance opening up soon!

The meeting then adjourned, and in lieu of a formal program, an informal bull session about caving was held instead.

NEW OFFICERS FOR 1991

At the meeting on 13 November 1990 an election was held for the purpose of choosing new grotto officers for 1991. The slate of nominees that was announced at the previous meeting was read, and then further nominations from the floor were requested. There being none, it was moved and approved that the nominees be elected by acclamation to serve as officers for the Maverick Grotto during 1991. Your new officers are:

Chairman:	Dale Ellison
Vice-Chairman:	Bruce Anderson
Treasurer:	Jimmy Thomas
Secretary/Editor:	Steven Jung

REFLECTIONS

By David Finfrock

After two years of producing the MAVERICK BULL each month, Shari and I are calling it quits. When we took this job, we said that we would depend on the members of the grotto to fill up each issue. And you have all come through. We did the work of typing, editing, cutting-and-pasting, and putting together each issue, but it is you, the members of the grotto who wrote the material. Thanks!

Steve Jung has been elected to be the new Editor of the MAVERICK BULL. I hope you'll all continue to write for him. Remember, he's bringing the keg to the Christmas Party, so treat him well!

As our years of service end, Shari and I now appreciate even more the job done by Butch Fralia in starting the MAVERICK BULL from scratch, and developing it into a very respectable, and on-time newsletter of the caving community. Most caving organizations never can seem to get their newsletters out on time. We tried to keep up with the standard set by Butch, and I'm sure Steve will be striving to do the same. Good luck, Steve, in 1991.

LA GRUTA DEL PRECIPICIO

DATE: November 2 to 6

REPORTED BY: Don Denton

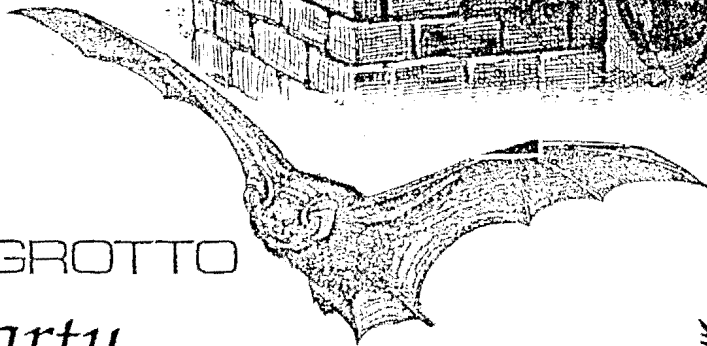
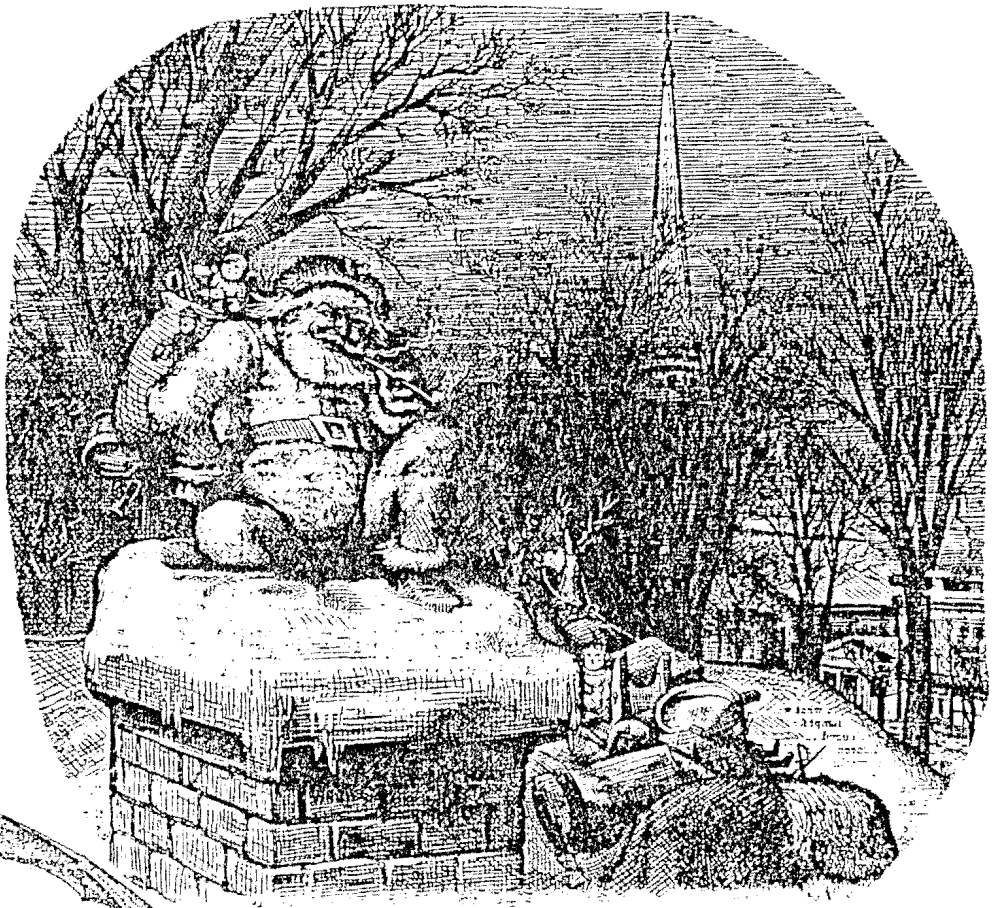
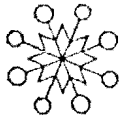
Thursday, November 1, I picked up Matt Ward at DFW. Matt was on vacation and had flown over from England. Danny and I knew Matt quite well from our overseas trip November 1989 to England. During a caving trip to France last September, I had an opportunity to cave with Matt again. It was during this trip that I invited Matt to join us in Mexico for Precipicio.

La Gruta Del Precipicio is in the Canon de Bustamante near the town of Bustamante. From the road on the canyon floor we spotted the cave on the precipice. We used binoculars to spot the approach described in reports and from other cavers. We made camp next to the creek below the talus slope that we would use as a trail up the mountain. That night, we gorged on t-bone steaks, baked potatoes and macaroni with cheese, our chef was T-Bone. This of course, was washed down with wonderful Corona and Tecate beer. Rudy and Danny who were planning to do La Gruta del Palmito the next day seem to enjoy describing the expressions on our faces when we first saw the cave entrance. From the canyon floor, the cave and trail look terrible ominous. Some of the trip reports I read seem to confirm this.

Sunday morning, 5:00 a.m. a weather front moves in. The entire group (except the motionless rock T-Bone) are up covering tents. The weather threatens an abort, fortunately it cleared and we began our hike up the mountain. The entire group including our two rope carrying sherpas Danny and Rudy followed a ridge that slopes down the mountain. After two hours of hiking the sherpas left the rope and turn back. Following the steep spine of the ridge's outcrop we were eventually standing three to five-hundred feet over the cave's entrance. We followed a obvious trail down to the cave, it took us three and a half hours.

The entrance passage is a oval-shaped tunnel with a soft dirt floor good for laying sleeping bags on. Here we ate, set up camp, organized our caving gear and headed back to the first drop. We rigged a rope with a deviation and dropped down the 150 foot pitch into a large fissure passage. This passage goes in two directions, we follow passage to a 50 foot drop and rigged our second rope. Beyond this drop is a large room with a steep breakdown slope. At the top of this slope are large stalagmites and tall columns very similar to Palmito. Climbing down the other side of the breakdown the speleothems become more numerous towards the back of this room, it was very pretty.

Monday morning I was first to awake. Stumbling through camp, I ignored the nasty protests of the others as I headed to the entrance to watch the glorious sunrise. After breakfast we headed back down the mountain to be greeted by a smiling (and possible envious) Rudy. Danny left earlier that morning to catch a bus back to Laredo. We stayed an additional night in Bustamante and headed back home Tuesday morning.



THE MAVERICK GROTTTO *Christmas Party*

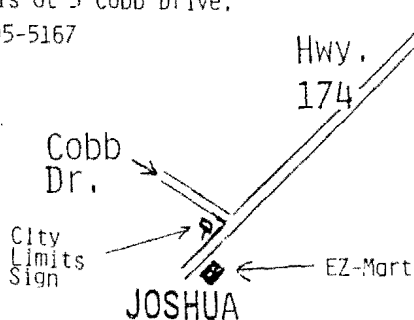
FRIDAY DECEMBER 21st

at 7:30 PM

Drive south on Interstate 35 W to Burleson. Then turn on Highway 174 South to Joshua. Turn right onto Cobb Drive just before you reach the Joshua City Limits sign. If you get to the EZ-Mart you have gone one block too far.

Danny and Jane's house is at 3 Cobb Drive. Their phone is (817) 295-5167

B.Y.O.B. and a favorite snack!



FORT WORTH

I-20

DALLAS

I-35 W

BURLESON



The munchies and drinks at the party will be whatever you decide to bring, so bring plenty!

There's lots of room in the back yard for tents and sleeping bags. So spend the night and don't take chances with driving after drinking.

Don't forget to bring White Elephant Gifts!!!

SPRINGS OF THE ARBUCKLE MOUNTAINS

By Woodrow Thomas

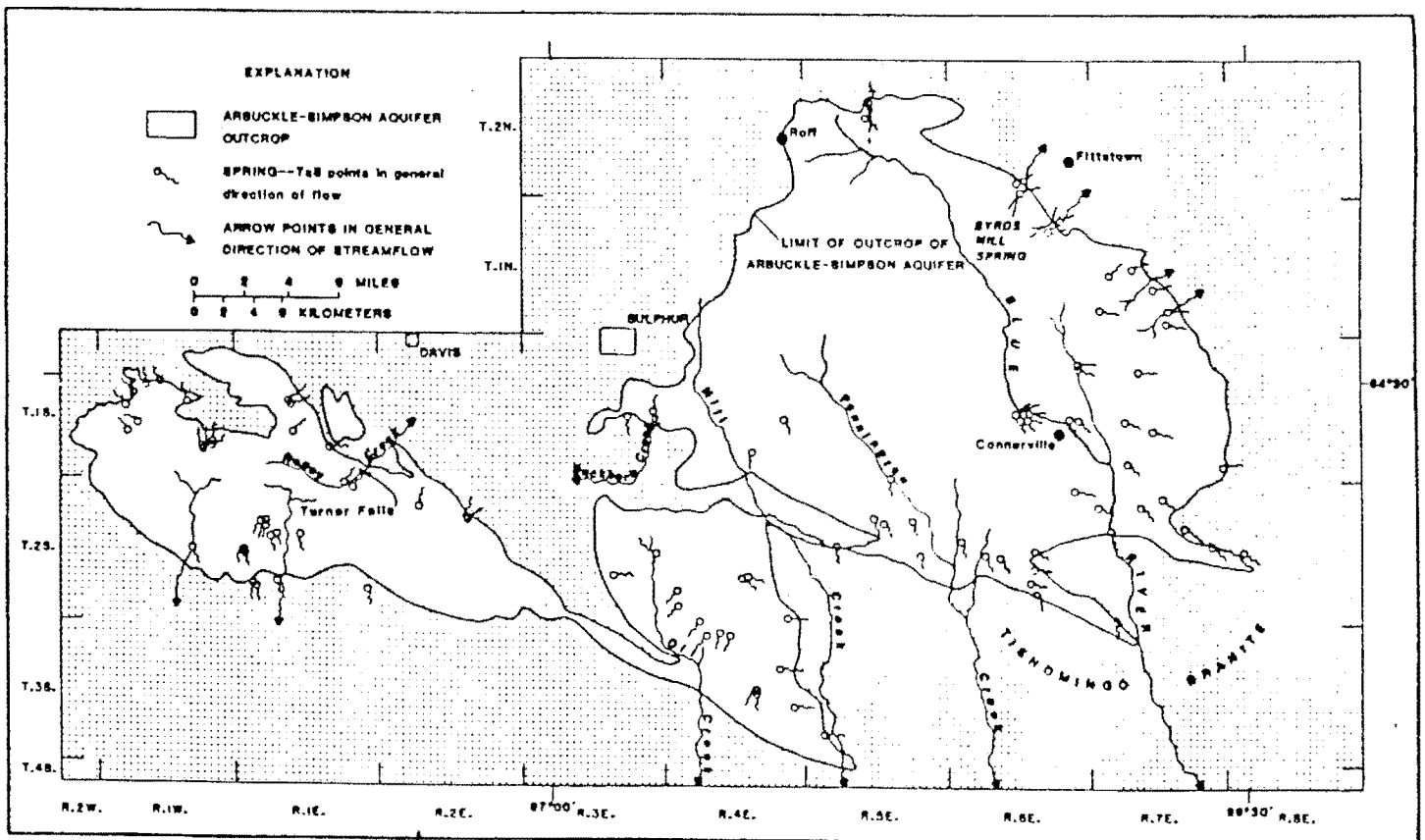
Fresh-water springs in the Arbuckle Mountains of southern Oklahoma are the natural discharge for water from rocks that make up the Arbuckle-Simpson aquifer. This particular aquifer consists of limestone, dolomite, and sandstone of the Arbuckle and Simpson Groups of late Cambrian to Middle Ordovician age. These rocks crop out in about a 375 square mile area.

The aquifer is recharged directly by rainfall on the outcrop area. Water enters the aquifer through fractures that have been enlarged by the solution of the limestone. The general direction of movement through the aquifer is towards the south.

Whenever this water comes into contact with rocks of less permeability, for instance, through faulting, the water moves to the surface. A good example of this occurs in the southeastern part of the Arbuckle area, where the Tishomingo granite of Precambrian age, comes into contact with the Arbuckle-Simpson aquifer. The granite, which has almost no permeability, creates a subterranean barrier to groundwater flow. This results in a groundwater mound on the north side of the barrier. Water is released from the mound by way of springs.

There are around 100 springs that discharge water from the Arbuckle-Simpson aquifer. Most of them are associated with faults or fractures in the limestone that, in many places, have been enlarged by solution of the rock. Most are gravity springs that occur where the potentiometric surface intersects the land surface. Wet weather seeps account for many of the springs. These discharge during, and for a short time after, the rainy season. Such springs, which probably occur where the water table is perched, cease flowing when the perched water recedes below the spring outlet.

Larger springs contribute sufficient discharge to sustain the flow in major streams on a perennial basis. The part of streamflow that results from groundwater discharge is called base flow and it varies directly in response to changes in the groundwater levels. Base flow of streams that drain the aquifer accounts for approximately 60% of the total annual runoff from the Arbuckle-Simpson outcrop area. The wintertime baseflow from the area amounts to about 0.53 cubic feet per second per square mile. This results in a total of 130 million gallons per day.



Map of the Arbuckle Mountains area showing locations of springs, from Oklahoma Geology Notes Vol. 44 #1

Old Caving Publications for Sale

Texas Caver

37 publications total. Vol 1 are 8-1/2 by 11 inch dittos on orange or yellow paper - many have tremendous multicolor ditto artwork by Helmer on the covers. Very good condition except the first one, which is poor due to paper deterioration.

Vol 2 through 5 are an 8-1/2 by 5-1/2 inch saddle bound dittos - again with great cover art. Fine condition.

- + Volume 1 ? : Oct 1955 (first issue ever?); No Date; Jan 1956; Feb 1956 Mar 1956; Apr 1956; May 1956; June 1956 ?; Sept 1956 ?
- + Vol 2 : #1 Jan/Feb 1957; #2 Mar/Apr 1957; #3 Nov 1957
- + Vol 3 : #1 Jan/Feb 1958; #2 Mar/Apr 1958; #3 May/June 1958
- + Vol 4 : #1 Jan/Feb 1959 (2 copies); #2 Mar/Apr 1959; #3 May/June 1959 (2 copies) #4 Jul/Aug 1959; #5 Sep/Oct 1959; #6 Nov/Dec 1959
- + Vol 5 : #1 Jan/Feb 1960; #2 Mar/Apr 1960
- + Vol 6 : #1 Jan 1961; #2; #3
- + Vol 7 : #5 May 1962; #6 Jun 1962; #7 Jul 1962; #8 Aug 1962 #9 Sep 1962; #10 Oct 1962; #11 Nov 1962; #12 Dec 1962
- + Vol 15 #11 Nov 1970

Texas Cave Survey, Dallas Grotto

11 publications total. These are basically early county reports on caves, 8-1/2 by 11 inch dittos, all good condition.

- + Vol 1 #1 Williamson County (reprint 1-59); #2 Val Verde Co.; #3 Travis Co.; #4 Edwards Co.; #5 Kendall Co.; #6 Irion & Jeff Davis Cos.; #7 Burnet Co. (postmarked 1958); Index
- + Vol 2 #1 Comal & Brewster Cos.; #2 Crockett Co.; #3 Bexar Co.

Southwestern Cavers

Began as publication of Southwestern Speleological Association, later to be Southwestern Region of NSS. Various colored covers, 8-1/2 by 11, all very good.

- + Volume 1 (called Southwest Caver) : #1 Jan 1960; #3 Mar 1960.
- + Volume 3 : #9 Oct 1964
- + Volume 4 : #1 Jan 1965
- + Volume 5 : (1966) #'s 2,4,5,6,7,8,9,10.
- + Volume 6 : (1967) #5 (2 copies)
- + Volume 7 : (1968) #4, 5.

Please Make an Offer

I am selling these from my collection to buy some newer speleology books. Please call write or call with an offer. All items subject to prior sale. If phoning, keep trying - I keep irregular hours. Ira Sasowsky; Room 332 Deike Building; University Park, PA 16802; Phone 814-237-1497.

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Please advise the editors of any errors in the above list,
as well as any changes of address or phone numbers.

CONICAL SINK CAVE AND FLATLANDER CAVE

DATE: OCTOBER 20, 1990

REPORTED BY: Don Denton

Driving to Childress to meet Koerschner seemed almost anticlimactic after plans for a Lechugilla trip fell through for that weekend. Bill Koerschner (Borger, Texas) and I meet at Hardees Saturday afternoon in Childress and discussed plans for that evening. The objective for Saturday night was to continue to dig and push the survey down stream of Conical Sink. Previous survey trips had netted 3307 feet of passage. Sunday, we planned to finish surveying Flatlander Cave that had been left since April 1988.

My first trip to Conical Sink was September 1988. Bill Stephens, Bill Koerschner (who first discovered the cave October 1985) and myself surveyed the upper section of the cave. In June 1989 we did some lower stream survey and began a dig at the end of the main downstream trunk. March of this year, after failing at a second digging attempt, Koerschner and I began exploring and surveying an adjacent cave. Last August, Koerschner and I returned to survey the lower stream passage of this nearby cave. On 1 September 1990 Stephens, Koerschner and myself, after some digging, connected these two caves. The other dig still remained an obstical.

Saturday, October 20, Koerschner and I entered Conical Sink and headed down stream to the dig. We brought with us a hammer and chisel, a army shovel, a hand held spade and a come-along. The ceiling of the bedding plane has a crevasse opening about four feet thick that none of us could squeeze through to another room. Two previous attempts at digging netted zero progress. A large breakdown boulder weighing approximately 250 pounds blocked the most promising section of the crevasse wide enough where we might be able to chisel through. The boulder was on its side, sitting on soft dirt and protruding up into the crevasse about a foot. It was balance in this position and not wedged in.

First we dug a down slopping trench in the direction we wanted to pull the boulder. Next, we broke away rock in the crevasse that might hinder movement. Finally we wrapped webbing around the boulder, attach the come-along and anchored it to a boulder embedded in the floor. Koerschner moved back into the bedding plane, I layed behind the larger boulder with my arm hanging over and hand on the lever of the come-along. If the webbing broke under the pressure, my arm would only be exposed to the cable slinging back at me.

Slowly we moved the boulder back about eight feet. The area cleared was large enough to sit up in and work with the hammer and chisel. Overhead the breakdown rocks were small, it look as though by removing one rock the whole pile might come caving in. We concentrated on one rock that looked independent of the others. After one of my turns at chisiling, it seemed hopeless. Trading out with Koerschner, I exited the cave to have a smoke. Heading back to the dig, emerging from the long crawl, I found Koerschner sitting up in the small dome room 20 feet from the dig. We use this area for resting, eating etc. since its the closest place to sit up out of the mud. Koerschner told me he made a little progress. Feeling a bit discourage, I crawled back to the dig to find it opened up. It was obvious that I was the victim of a practical joke, I could hear Kourschner laughing. From the dig we continued

the survey down stream in walking passge untill we reached a sinkhole boulder choke with another entrance that we surveyed out of. On the other side of the choke is Montgomery's Cave surveyed October 1985 by Stephens and Koerschner.

Sunday morning, we headed to a different section of the ranch to finish the dreaded Flatlander's Cave. On 15 April 1988 Flatlander was my fifth cave ever and second survey. I had spent eight and a half hours on a wet muddy cave floor in a bedding plane that never got any higher than two feet with my new masochistic caving friends Stephens and Koeschner. My job was lead tape and back shots. I managed to pack so much mud on the instruments that they were impossible to read. These memories flashed in the back of my head as we walked to the entrance.

As we negotiated our way down into the giant sink, Koerschner motion to the entrance where we saw a large porcupine. As we approach, it spun around and moved its large tail full of sharp hollow quills back and forth as a warning to us intruders. The intended survey was some 60 feet from the main entrance. Since the passage needing surveying went under the main entrance, we decided it would not disturb our nervous friend. We completed Flatlander and added another 100 feet bringing the length to 833 feet.

In the October 1990 Maverick Grotto Newsletter, the Long Caves Of Texas was printed. Using that list as a reference, Conical Sink Cave at 3507 feet should move up to number 24 on that list. With the highly probable connection of Montgomery's Cave, Conical Sink should move up to number 23. Currently, Childress County has two other caves on this list Pothooks and West Clutch.

