

# THE TECH TROGLODYTE

A JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA TECH GROTTO OF THE  
NATIONAL SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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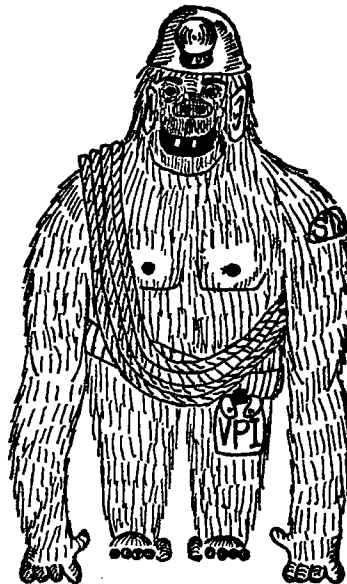
VOL. IX No. 2

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WINTER QUARTER 1971

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THE TECH TROGLODYTE is published by the VPI Grotto on a quarterly basis pending the availability of material. All submitting of material and subscriptions should be sent to Box 471, Blacksburg, Virginia 24060. Subscription rate is presently one cent per page or by exchange. Individual copy price is \$.50.

ART WORK		Larry Cooke
&	by	Bob Page
CARTOONS		Robyn Wick

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

With the continual increase in the number of people who are caving, we are beginning to incur some of the additional problems which are to be expected in any sport which experiences increasing participation. Increased traffic in many caves, along with some irresponsible or unknowledgable cavers, are causing landowner relation problems. This problem is not due to a greater percentage of "problem" cavers, it is caused by the greater number of cavers caving. This problem needs to be handled on a local level. Each grotto should consider it a responsibility to develop responsible cavers within its ranks. This extends to the practice of becoming personally familiar with the cave-owners, and extending them the courtesies they deserve. Remember, it is not a God given right to set foot on another man's land. I would say that an hour spent doing something for the owner's benefit for every few hours underground would not be too much. Spend time with the owner, but, of course, do not get in his way, either. Many cave owners would like to see slides of their caves, and any speleological work being done in the cave would probably be of interest to him.

I would also like to encourage participation in the Virginia Region. It is to your advantage to attend Region functions. In this way, you can become familiar with people from other grottos, and also become familiar with some of the problems and also good points of other grottos. When caving in another area, I would encourage trying to meet or contact some of the cavers in a local grotto. Some bad scenes in caving can be avoided by admitting to yourself that you may not know some of the particulars about a cave, and about a landowner situation. It is certainly less embarrassing to find the facts before you get there, rather than to find them from the cave owner.

Friendship and fellowship inherent in cavers should spread between grottos as much as possible, for it is the individual grottos forming a region which will control the future of caving. The Virginia Region will be assuming an increasing role in the future of this area. I say this because the NSS is not equipped to handle local problems, nor was it meant to be. The burden of the caving community lies with the region, and with the grottos in the region. So coordination between grottos will become increasingly important.

I hope it does not sound as if I am harping on caving problems. There are good points to make about the future of caving. Interest in speleological disciplines is going up, I feel, and will continue to do so. Now that a large proportion of the known caves have been explored and charted, the time is coming to start doing something with what we have.

Hydrological, geological, biological and other studies in caves have just begun, and can be quite interesting, even to a caver who is not trained in one of these areas. I contend that you do not have to be a specialist in geology to make meaningful geologic observations underground. I think that with concentration and some reading and talking around, one can find a long-term interesting project in speleology.

As a final remark, I would like to comment on the VPI Grotto. A lot of cavers in the grotto seem to feel that the grotto is not what it used to be. I would disagree with this point. Of course, the grotto does not consist of the same people that it used to, but a new group of cavers have come into the grotto. And I feel that we have a good bunch. Cavers have always been an individualistic bunch, and this has actually been the binding force of cavers. As Paul (Pablo) Davis put it in a previous Trog, the notable fact of cavers is their ability to regard people for what they are, instead of for what they think they should be. Naturally, as a new group comes into the grotto, the members have their own idiosyncrasies, but it cannot be denied that the grotto has had major trips to at least four caves for almost every weekend this year. So, I think the most important thing in caving is to put caving first, and to do your own thing.

Bob Amundson

\* \* \* \* \*

#### EDITOR'S COLUMN

The Virginia Polytechnic Institute Grotto of the NSS is located in Blacksburg, Virginia. Recently we observed our 28th anniversary as a grotto. This makes the VPI grotto the second oldest active grotto in the National Speleological Society. This year we are hosting the 30th annual NSS Convention. We feel it will be worth your while to pay us a visit.

First of all, Blacksburg is ideally located for caving. There is even a cave within walking distance of campus. Within an easy day's drive there are literally, hundreds of miles of caves; enough to suit even the most eager caver.

For the vertically oriented, there are caves such as Clover Hollow with its drops of 70', 90' and 140' respectively with numerous small climbs in between. For those who like mud in their teeth there is the 180' drop of Spence Cave. Or for an impressive drop that you can walk back up, there is the 186' in Newberry's Cave. Maybe if you are lucky, you can catch Higgenbotham's without water.

If vertical work is not your bag, then there are hundreds of easy to difficult horizontal caves. For times when the convention may be a bit dull, I may be talked into a trip through lower Tony's where, the great Cartwright permitting, you can enjoy 300" of two foot deep humidity in a three foot passage. If crawling in cold water is not for you, then there are the miles of big dry passage in Greenville Saltpeter, Laural Creek, Windy Mouth, all in West Virginia. There is also Butler's, Fallen Rock and New River in Virginia.

If you are looking for cave life then pay a visit to Beacon Cave, where a little bit of everything is to be found. It is also worthwhile to bring your camera there.

For you photographers in the crowd, this area is a must. Paxton's Cave alone is worth the trip. It has one of the most profuse array of photographic material on the East coast. With special permission and a good guide, there can be pictures of gypsum needles, angle's hair and gypsum flowers in Butler's Cave, Virginia's longest. Closer to campus is Spruce Run Cave.

When you are really looking for something new and exciting, try and catch a place on a Jim Hixson trip to Warm River Cave, where you can cave in the nude in the 80° water, ( there's even an old swimming hole ).

If caving is not a major item on your convention list, then perhaps you'd like to participate in the midnight float trip on the New River being planned by Doug Draves. Or if you'd prefer playing it safe you can wait until daylight and shoot the rapids in that old standby the innertube.

Climbing skills can be sharpened on the local rock faces of Fool's Face and Dragon's Tooth. Or on your way here or back, you can stop off at SenecaRocks in West Virginia.

Perhaps you've heard of our parties. With such liners as the Easter Pig Roast, or the 1970 float trip party disaster. I'm sure we can come up with another (or two) at the convention.

So even if you just want a change of scenery, and there are some mighty pretty sights here, head East in June 1971, for eight days of the best Convention you will ever attend. We've got all the right ingrediants except you.

Guy Turenne  
Associate Editor

\* \* \* \* \*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

Dear Editors,

Very glad to see Vol. 9 #1 - it's been a couple years and we stopped sending the Caver.

But what's all this about portable carbide dumps and having to fight plastic bags and so on? Why not simply carry your spare carbide in extra bottoms like we do out here? You just change bottoms and automatically take it home.

Best to all,

Dr. William R. Halliday

P.S. Hope to see everyone at the 71 Convention - but better start planning now to come Northwest in 72 - for variety! Looks like the best ever!!!

\* \* \* \* \*

## ANSWER TO LETTER TO EDITOR:

Thanks for pointing out an alternative that I have used previously but neglected to include in the article.

As you point out, spare carbide lamp bottoms prove a means of carrying out spent carbide. It also is quite efficient since the same container is used for taking in carbide. It makes shanging carbide much faster, especially if no light is available or the lamp is flooded.

Let's compare requirements for the two methods: spare bottoms versus baby bottles. Assume a 12 hour trip at 2 hours per charge. Carbide needs will be 4-6 charges, with 2-4 charges for safety margin, or 8 charges total.

Spare Lamp BottomBaby Bottles

Bulk: 8 bottoms

2 baby bottles

(1 for good carbide

1 for spent carbide

Means of

carry: pack

Hang on belt, etc..

Cost: \$.75x8=\$6.00

\$.40x2=\$.80

Obviously, for a shorter trip, and 12 hours is not an average trip for most cavers, the bulk for the spare bottoms method is less than indicated, but the bottoms still must be carried, probably in a pack. The cost is as great as the capacity needed for the longest trip taken, not the average.

Each system has advantages and disadvantages. Any one system can not be considered the ultimate for every person or situation. Each caver must choose the system which suits him or her (or it?).

Hey out there, any more suggestions?

Ed Morgan

## BROUGHTON - BRUNTON: STANDARD MODEL NO. 2\*

Technical Research Report X-8N4S9S6

\*Arctic Patent Pending

## Introduction:

For more than a year the Broughton-Brunton Standard Model No. 1 has found wide acceptance in exploration and surveying of Virginia's Great Dismal Swamp peat caves. Since man has extended his environment to the moon, Homo spelunkus has been thrust upon the new part of the last frontier, the lunar underground. Not to withstand the overburdening weight of progress, the Equipment Research team, a permanent sitting committee of the Virginia Tech Cave Club has developed the Broughton-Brunton standard design to meet lunar specifications, as established by the Federal Arctic Commission on Surveying Standards and Instrumentation.

## Specifications:

The most distinctive feature about the new design was the removal of the Butane gas jet from Model No. 1. Current scientific astrological observations on the lunar surface indicate insufficient amounts of oxygen and neon in the atmosphere to support a live flame. As a result, the Model No. 1's ability to burn through the peat walls is unapplicable under the lunar surface. Because of the scientific error range of statistical probability, however, it is possible that the lunar speleologists will uncover sizable percentages of rare gases, including oxygen and neon, underground. The distance from the entrance is theoretically calculated to be greater than three earth miles as expressed by the calculation:

$$P(f(x)) = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \frac{x^3 t}{\sin \theta} dx - P(f(c)) + 1$$

where  $P$  is the probability of finding 20% oxygen trapped in a lunar cavity as a function of the distance  $f(x)$  from the entrance. (note:  $f(x)$  goes to infinity if there are more than one entrance). Further elaboration of the third derivative of the integration of the above function, as well as its implications, are in a previous Technical Research Report of the committee.

The new Model No.2 (figure1) has a built in 100 foot measuring wire (A) one millimeter in diameter. A special gold-aluminum alloy has been used for the survey wire as well as the compass housing to prevent magnetic deflections. At the end of the wire is a gamma ray source (B). When lined up with a revolutionary new radiation detector (C), a red light blinks (D) indicating that vector component  $x$  has been aligned.

The unique feature of the Broughton-Brunton is that all directions are converted to earth-based directions, rendering lunar maps of some use to interested scientific personnel on the Earth. Miniaturized transistor-amplified



FIGURE 1

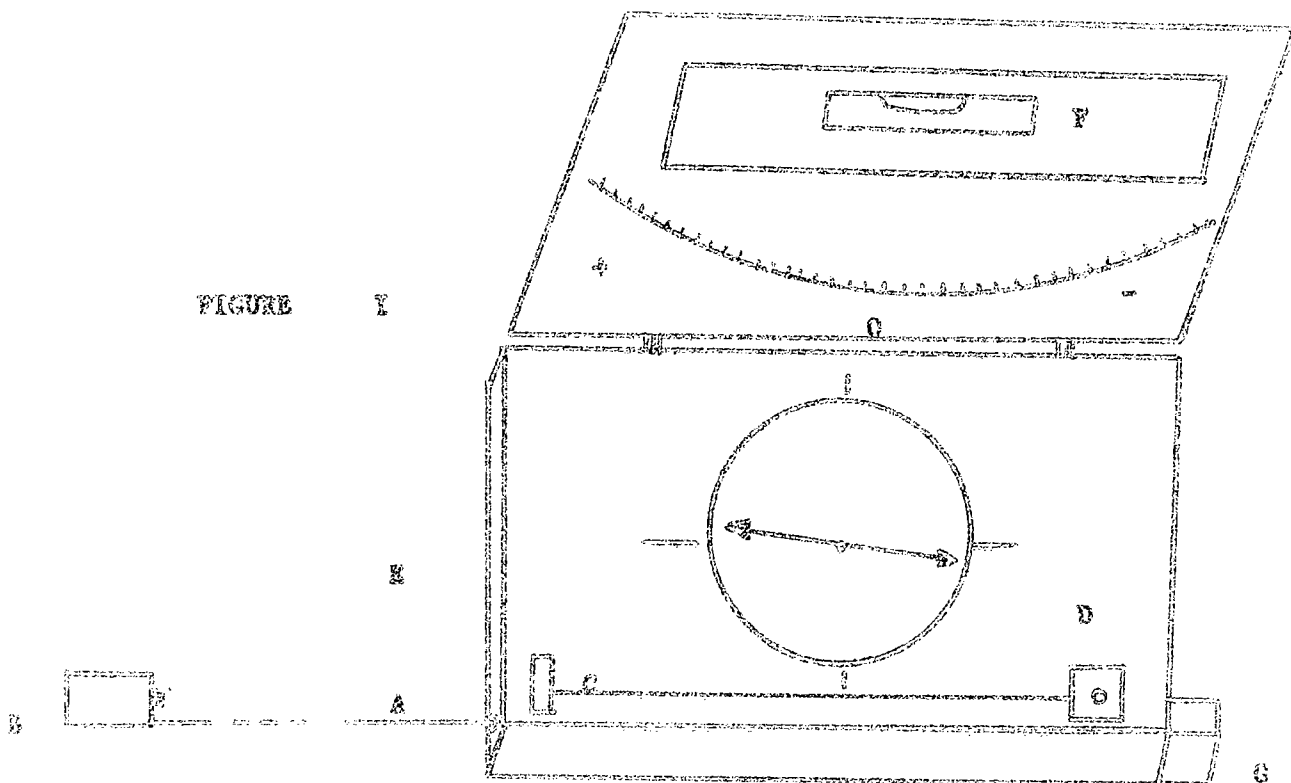
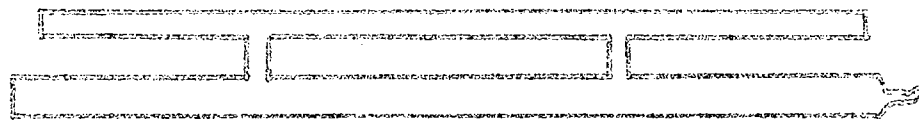


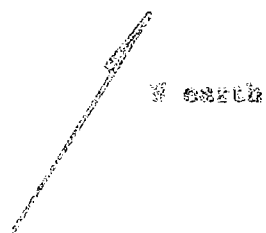
FIGURE 2

LAVA TUBE CAVE NO.

4322



0 200 400  
feet



Entrance and trap survey by A. I. Cartwright

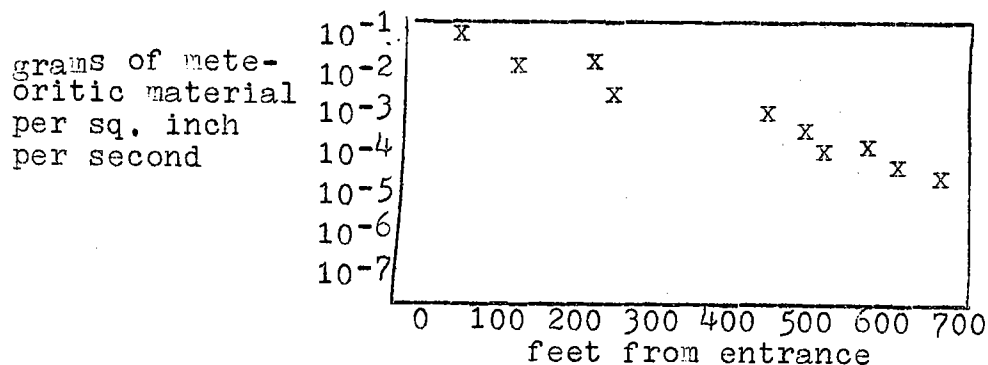
circuits within the body (E) take the needle orientation with a lunar environment and correct it to North Pole Earth based directional components. It is powered by the radiation picked up by the detector (C) and has a half-life of 600 years. Unfortunately, there is very little scientific evidence to support if the overall operations of the Broughton-Brunton will be effective that long.

To satisfy the y and z components of the instrument orientation in a near weightless environment, the research team has developed a unique leveling-clinometer system (F). If the y and z components are satisfied when the bubble-tube is spun about a 360 degree rotation, the bubble will concentrate at the central axis, indicating it is oriented to a horizontal earth basis. When this is the case, the declination is read off the scale below.

Excess radiation is channeled away from the instrument through part G. At this point a special radiation sensitive dye is incorporated to leave a spot approximately eight inches below the instrument for use as a survey station marker.

#### Field Test Analysis:

Use of the Model 2 was tested under lunar conditions mapping lava tube no. 4232 at lunar coordinates N24-46-578 in the Esmeralda Crater Quadrangle. Figure 2 is the first surveyed and published lunar cave map. The Broughton-Brunton held up to the Standards demanded at the onset of the expedition. Tests were taken on the resistance to lunar micro-meteorite impact damage while underground. Statistical analysis of the data indicates that meteorite impact upon the movable parts of the Broughton-Brunton is inversely proportional to the distance from the entrance. However, further tests are being taken at this time to determine the relative absence of micro-meteorites in the speleo-lunar atmosphere and their influence on creating a continually shifting gravitational stability field. Additional tests will be carried out in the near future to determine the influence of a shifting gravitational focal point on the accuracy of readings.



## LOST WEEKEND

"Aren't you guys up yet?" a voice broke the peaceful chill of a crisp November morning. Winnie turned over, grunted, mumbled under his breath "Damn Trainee", and slowly pulled his bag snugly around his head. "Aren't you going to get up? It's time to get going--get caving!" Oh the pain! Who can think of crawling around in the muck and damp at 6:30 in the morning, especially while your ears are frozen to the back of your head?

Like a truly dedicated trainee, I followed Winnie's lead and pulled the warm bag tightly around my ears. However, some things the most dedicated of procrastinators can't ignore and just then a huge tractor trailer flew past, rattling every frozen bone in my body. That did it--I'm awake, in time to see Ed Richardson darting across the 20 feet of land that separated our humble group from the infamous and frankly, rather noisy Route 11.

What a night, what a trip! I knew it held great promise for a profusion of misfortune. We already had a great start. It wasn't enough that the four of us had left Blacksburg with a trunkful of food and only Perkin's Boy Scout mess kit to cook it in, but some girl had remembered to pack her fingers to eat it with, and somewhere between Chatanooga and Interstate 72 we had gotten sidetracked onto the scenic Route 11 approach to Huntsville, via Georgia. And there we were camped out on the Alabama-Georgia line with a serenade of tractor trailers and speeding cars to lull us into a shallow and all too short sleep.

Okay; I'm awake, but still fighting the overwhelming urge to get up, right? Suddenly a bag next to Winnie started contracting and gave birth to a face that somewhat resembled our illustrious Vice President after Speleo-go-go.

"Want me to go get the stove and food?" Oh, for eager trainees! Winnie pulled out the key, handed it to Ed, grunted one last protest and slowly crawled out from his cocoon. Ladies and Gentlemen, isn't that the kinda stuff that made VPI great? We were all up then, fixed some P&J sandwiches, made some coffee and proceeded to figure out just where we were. (Of course a large "Welcome to Alabama" sign 100 feet down the road helped.) Then we were off to Huntsville and the nearest 29 cent Gas station. Luckily we found both, and after about 15 minutes of driving around in circles finally found Shelta Cave. We scouted around for a potential camp sight for that night, held a conference and decided that instead of cooking a turkey, we would spend Thanksgiving Day doing Neversink Pit and Gerry Self Pit. After all, hadn't Winnie been to Neversink

before? Didn't we have our trusty '67 Convention Guide? It shouldn't take much time to yo-yo the 165' Neversink and have plenty of time for Gerry Self, right? After spending all morning circling Scottsboro, we finally located the Highway Department and a map of the area, and found out that we had been looking in the wrong area entirely, however, after that, it was smooth sailing to the cave up the mountain (conveniently marked by a waterpipe, thank God) and to the cave. We rigged the rope, and while Doug and Winnie crossed over to the other side for pictures, Ed and I rigged in. Now, for all those Geologists, and scientifically minded among you, I will proceed to describe Neversink Pit. It's a big hole with rock walls. That's it, a big hole. After surveying the place for about 2 seconds, we started back up the drop. Being the only one without a cam rig, of course I started out first. That way, I didn't have to hold the rope taut for the others. Once up, I set off to the car, and the typically feminine job of fixing lunch. What else? P&J! Ed was close on my heels on the descent of the mountain, and he and I, along with our infinite knowledge of the inner workings of a factory assembly line, proceeded to produce about a dozen sandwiches by the time Winnie and Doug got back with the rope.

After satisfying our well deserved hunger, we pulled out our trusty '67 Convention Guide, and set out, with optimism, for Gerry Self Pit. We should have known better. We spent the whole afternoon looking for the cave, but as dark and a few hunters closed in, we abandoned all hope. Back at Shelta, we attempted to locate a key to Shelta, but a couple of hours and about 5 dollars in calls later, decided that that was a lost cause also. It wasn't that we hadn't written, but our letter was returned--insufficient address. Our luck still held! Back at Shelta, we cooked dinner, (By this time, Winnie had bought a pot in Huntsville.) and went to sleep, full of aspirations for the coming day.

There we were in the middle of downtown Huntsville, surrounded by miles of residential housing, urban, familiar, far from trucks and cars, safe and secure, a great place to get a great sleep, right? You already know the answer. Someone's pet rooster even beat "Damn Trainee" up (and at 5 o'clock in the morning) and after about two hours of "Ole McDonald", the local dogs broke loose and it was all over for another would be sleep.

"Aren't you up yet, you lazy bums?" It's a good thing Shelta isn't a 100' pit!

Well, it was up and out, roll up the sleeping bags, eat Ed's slightly burnt oatmeal, and off to Natural Well.

Now Natural Well is about as close to Huntsville as you can get with a cave and not have the whole city fall into it, and about as easy to find as Doug's sleeping bag, that is if you have your trusty '67 Convention Guide and someone in the car who knows where it is. None of us did, obviously. However, Lady Luck smiled on us again, and after about six trips around Monte Santo Ridge, we found the path leading to the cave. We were the first ones there, and we grabbed the best rigging point we saw. We were soon to be joined by fellow cavers from Indiana, Windy City, and Florida State. It was a regular convention. After thrilling the Indiana people with his single brake bar descent, Winnie joined us for a tourist trip through the cave. Now for the already mentioned Geologically and scientifically oriented, I will include a brief description of our observations. It was rather similar to Neversink. However, it was a little deeper, and possessed a bit more cave, some rather muddy crawls connected a series of dome pits. After signing the register, we started out, in time to see some caver from Indiana do the 185' drop on a full rack and virgin Goldline. We sat around getting into our rigs, watching the Indiana caver struggle while a friend helped unknot the rope, and went back up. This time it was decided that since I was the only one without a cam rig that I should be the last up. (A decided improvement on our decision the day before.) Half-way up the drop I met another Indiana caver on a full rack, and we had a nice conversation as he fed and I prussiked. Then, we decided to drive out to TAG Fieldhouse, in Paintrock Valley, where, upon arriving, some stupid girl remembered that she had forgotten her coat back at Natural Well. Winnie smiled with a rather pained expression, and we all jumped back in the car for a leisurely trip back to Huntsville. By this time, it was dark, or nearly there. A quick trip down the hill didn't produce a coat, but we were lucky enough to drive into a 3 foot ditch, as we drove up to the path. With the help of providence, and a friendly neighbor, we managed to push the car back onto the road and start out again.

Here it was decided that Winnie, Doug, and Ed would ditch me at my sister-in-law's place, and go to Shelta and cook dinner. Around midnight they picked me up and we all started out for Paintrock Valley, this time to stay the night. We put our bags around the back, and rested soundly until some particularly eager cavers started making noise. Prompted by Ed's insistence, I managed to get up, roll up my sleeping bag and eat my breakfast, followed close by a good stiff cup of coffee. Florida State came through with a red coat and some information on how to find Vahalla (they were going there themselves) and after making sure I didn't forget anything, we started out.

While we were driving down a road we recognized the Florida State car going the opposite direction so we quickly altered our course and followed them to the cave. A well worn path lead 2 miles up the mountain to the most fantastic pit I've ever seen. Looking down the huge hole all you could see were clouds of mist, and small flickering lights. It wasn't too long before I realized that I had forgotten something. Ever try to rappel 240 feet without gloves? Winnie gave me another of those rather pained expressions I had learned to expect and decided that Doug would go down the drop first, prussik out, and give me his gloves. All went according to plans, and after Doug was off the rope, I pulled up the heavy rope, rigged in, and after feeding the first 20 feet slipped down to the floor. As Winnie did his famous head-first single rappel a FSCC trainee standing behind me shouted "Look at that guy!" "Yea", I said and ran off to find a waterfall I heard. Winnie cammed out, and I followed close behind on my prussiks. Just standing there looking at Vahalla made it all worthwhile. We decided to drive back to Knoxville that night and stay at Winnie's brother's apartment. It rained all that night and the next morning I woke to the sound of Winnie's footsteps. I looked up and noticed a body still in his sleeping bag. "Ah, ah! Aren't you up yet, Ed? You lazy bum. It's time to get going--get back to Blacksburg!"

Twila Youngman

\* \* \* \* \*

### THE CAVING CONNOISEUR

#### Mini-Burgers

From your nearest supermarket pick up the cheapest brand of hamburg available.  
Place  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. hamburg in skillet  
Turn heat on high  
Cook 10 minutes per side or until one quart of grease has melted off.  
Drain off grease and save for cooking popcorn in  
Pick out hamburger, if lucky it might serve one.

#### FLAT CAKE

Pick up 1 package Cake mix  
Follow directions on package  
After searching find the only pan you have is five times too large but pour in anyway.  
Bake for prescribed length of time  
Lift out and cut into 4 layers  
Yield: one cake 6" x 4" x 2"

## PUMPKIN PIE

Slice one half of 8lb. pumpkin  
Cook on stove 3 hrs. on high  
After nothing happens place pumpkin in blender  
for 20 min.  
Return soup and ground up spoon to stove for  
2 hrs. longer  
Boil down to paste  
Pour into bowl  
Add 1 cup milk, oregano, ginger  
Stir in and pour into pie shell  
Place in oven for 1 hr.  
All to stand over night to harden

## GROSS-OUT SOUP

In 2qt. sauce pan pour 3 cups water  
Add soup bones  
Bring to boil and add rice  
Add 2 chicken necks which have been lying on  
shelf two days  
Add macaroni  
Add 1 tsp. garlic salt, onion salt, 1 bay leaf,  
curry powder, worrestershire sauce, Adolf's  
meat tenderizer  
Again bring to boil remove soup bones add Lipton's  
beef flavor mushroom mix  
For taste add ketchup  
For aroma add two jiggers Jim Beam  
If it still needs a taste add grape kool-aide  
and sweet and sour sauce  
After tasting, open up can of soup and start over  
  
More winners next quarter

Head Provacuteur  
Guy Turenne

\* \* \* \* \*

## SAVAGE CAVE WOMAN

Michael seemed determined to take me caving  
this year. Bad weather saved me the first time we  
planned to go. And then the next time Michael got sick  
so we couldn't go caving. Wow! What a relief!

My doomsday finally arrived. Twelve cavers, in-  
cluding me, packed up and went to Spruce Run Cave. We  
arrived at the cave and hiked a short distance from  
our cars to the entrance. The experienced cavers eag-  
erly entered the cave. I timidly approached the cave  
entrance and peered down as the others disappeared

into the darkness. Michael encouraged me to go ahead. I felt like a child that had been told that if he dug a hole deep enough he would reach China. I felt as if I were entering a world unknown to me before.

Several people had told me that this would be an easy cave. They said it was small and had a lot of pretty formations in it. Fine. But they forgot to mention the forty feet of crawlway at the entrance of the cave. And when I say crawl, I don't mean crawl on your hands and knees-I mean crawl on your stomach or side, or whichever way you fit between the rocks best. Have you ever crawled on your side around a 120 degree turn? But onward I went into the depths of the cave through streams and mud and rock. Finally we came to the big room at the back of the cave. The room was shaped like a stage with an orchestra pit. The walls on all sides were filled with formations. The floor of the stage was riddled with all sorts of odd formations. Some of them looked to me like sand ripples that you would find on a small deserted beach. There were stalagmites on the stage also. A couple of the stalagmites were tilted, which is very unusual. Looking at cave formations is like looking at clouds and making them appear in your mind to represent something.

We twelve cavers were not alone in the cave. There were numerous daddy long legs and crickets covering the walls. I learned that cavers tend to exaggerate. They kept exclaiming, "Millions! Millions of three lb. spiders! Healthy three lb. spiders! "

Then other cavers would go into a very remote part of the cave and call for you to come back too. Beautiful formations they would say. I believed the lie and followed into a crawlway. This particular crawlway led into a small room which had no formations, but instead was filled with five other cavers. I decided that five in there were enough, so I turned around and went back out.

Michael had told me that the temperature in caves was about 54 degrees. Since I get cold easily, I dressed warmly; four shirts, tights, knee socks, jeans, fleece lined boots and gloves, plus the essential hardhat. Steam was beginning to rise off of my body. Perspiration was rolling off my forehead. I had to remember not to wipe my forehead with my glove covered hand, because the glove was covered with mud.

I came to the conclusion that I had explored all of the cave worth exploring. People soon began to emerge from the remote parts of the cave. It was now



time to return to the outer world. And exit we did. Two cavers, though, stayed way behind to rediscover the cave, or each other, whichever the case may be. The cavers ahead of me were fast and soon out of sight. I plodded along at my own turtle pace. It wasn't long before I came to the entrance. When I emerged from the cave no one was in sight and it was raining. I hiked back to the car, changing into partially dry and clean clothes on the way. I sat in the car waiting for the rest of the group to get ready to leave. I was tired, dirty and bruised, but a totally new person. I am now a savage cave woman.

Alice Cockey

\* \* \* \* \*

#### A CHALLENGE FOR KNOWLEDGE

I look over the edge,  
I'm ready to rappel  
The rope's been rigged, the knots been checked,  
My swiss seat is tied, my biners are clipped.

I look over the edge,  
In the darkness below.  
The glow of my light on wet, gleaming walls,  
Plays cahnging games as I begin to move.

I kick off the edge  
Gripping the rope,  
The buzz of rope over man-made steel,  
Grows in my ears as I begin to move.

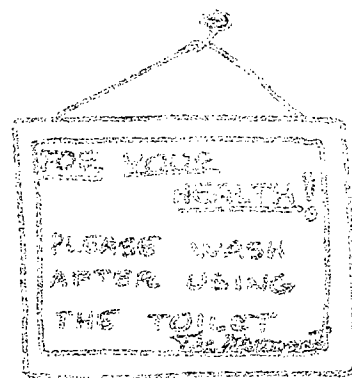
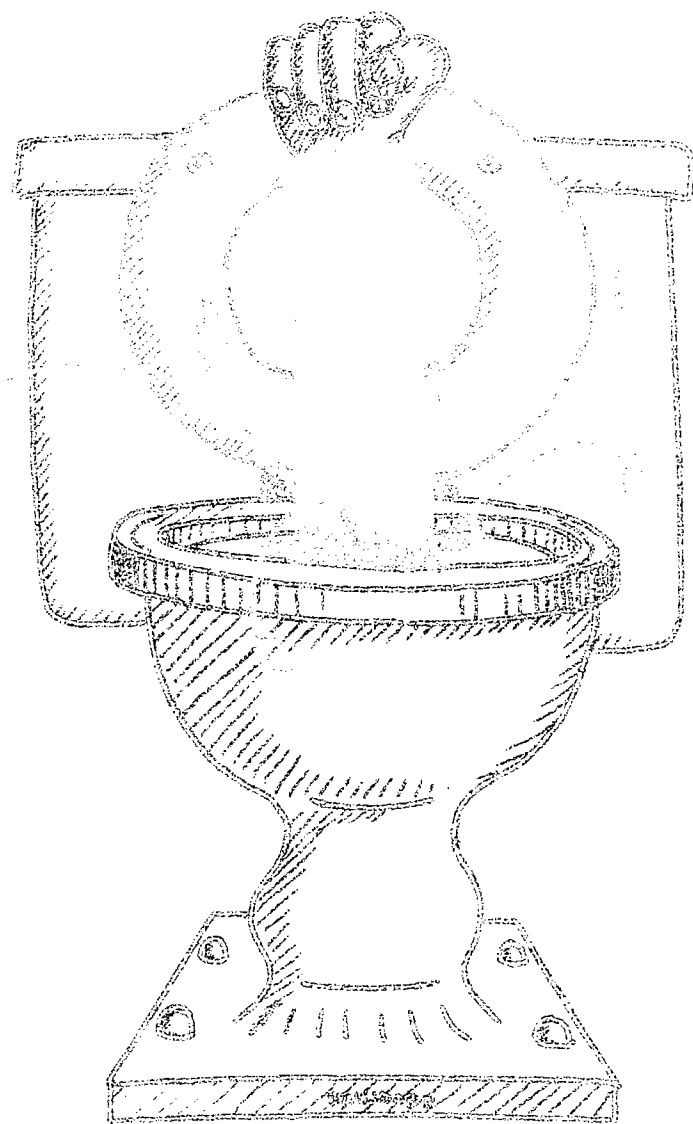
The walls flash briefly  
In the glow of the flame.  
The floor is below. The rope glows warm  
On a gloved hand as my speed is slowed.

I rest on the floor  
And stare with all wonder.  
What will I find? What challenge awaits?  
Into the unknown I must go on.

Probing the depths of darkness  
To satisfy my thirst,  
For the unbounded knowledge of the wherefores and whys  
Into the darkness I must go on.

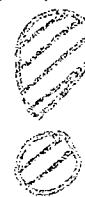
Probing the depths of darkness  
To satisfy my quest,  
For challenge and adventure.  
Into the darkness I must go on.

Tuna Johnson



Page  
306

"WE MAY HAVE TO  
ABORT~  
I DROPPED THE  
BRUNTON IN THE  
TOILET



## Carbide Lamp Trouble Shooting Chart

<u>Trouble</u>	<u>Solution</u>
Lamp will not light	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Check striker assembly. Clean and dry if dirty or wet. Replace flint if worn.</li><li>2. Check carbide and water. Refill if needed.</li><li>3. Check felt. Dry or replace if wet. Replace if worn or brittle.</li><li>4. Check tip for dirt or damage. Clean or replace tip, seat tip solidly.</li><li>5. Check water valve for stoppage. If water does not drip, blow through filler cap to unblock.</li><li>6. Inspect gasket on lamp bottom. Clean gasket, seat, threads, replace gasket if worn. Screw bottom on tightly.</li><li>7. Clean vent hole in water door if clogged.</li><li>8. Check for holes in lamp. Patch or replace part.</li></ol>
Lamp lights but burns irregularly.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Check tip for dirt or damage. Clean or replace.</li><li>2. Check felt. Dry or replace if wet, replace if worn or brittle.</li><li>3. Check water and carbide, refill if needed.</li><li>4. Check gasket on bottom for leaks. Clean or replace gasket, clean threads and seats, screw bottom on tightly.</li><li>5. Check water valve for free dripping, clean if clogged.</li><li>6. Check water door for clogged vent hole, clean if clogged.</li></ol>
Flame around bottom gasket.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Inspect gasket, threads, seats. Clean if dirty, replace gasket if worn, screw bottom on tightly.</li></ol>
Flame burns around tip or burns at an angle	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Check for dirt in tip seat. Clean, reseal tip.</li><li>2. Dirt in tip. Clean tip.</li><li>3. Check fit of tip. Change tips or grind tip and its seat to seal tightly.</li></ol>

Water flow cannot be regulated.	1. Check seating of water valve. Reseat if worn or too tight.
	2. Check to see that adjustment lever turns valve. Replace valve assembly.
	3. Check lamp for proper assembly at factory.

Water spurts from filler cap.	1. Decrease flow of water into lamp bottom.
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Lamp burns well but light poor.	1. Reflector dirty. Clean reflector.
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\* \* \* \* \*

#### A Day At Paxton's

Paxton's was one of the most impressive and beautiful caves I had ever visited. The many magnificent speleothems found in this cave ranged from stalactites, stalagmites, columns, and flowstone, to soda straws, dogtooth spar in dry rimstone pools, and rooms adorned with pure white calcite crystals, flowers, and helictites.

Ed Morgan, Janet Queisser, Boots Good and I started the trip into Paxton's around twelve noon. A quiet waterfall fell near the entrance showing us a preview of what was to come. The first portion of the cave was maze passage finally leading to two large rooms, the Formation Room containing many beautiful stalactite, stalagmite, and helictite formations. Near this was the Pole Room, getting its name from one very large stalagmite in the middle of the floor.

After looking over these rooms we continued through some walking passage and mud crawls until we encountered what appeared to be dog-tooth spar observed in some dry rimstone pools. The climax was yet to come though, because we were nearing one of the more spectacular rooms in Paxton's, the Christmas Room.

Before finding the entrance to this room we came upon another group of formations. Some of these were contained in a large opening close to the ceiling. Fortunately, the slope to this opening was very slight and easy to climb. When observing the formations here one

finds a wonderland of crystal taking many beautiful shapes. One form that impressed me was a butterfly with closed wings, a very delicate structure that would catch the eye of almost anyone. Looking further we also found soda straws very well formed and in great numbers.

Upon going through a small crawlway one falls upon a room of great splendor and beauty, the Christmas Room. On the walls and ceiling of this enormous room, we found pure white calcite crystals that sparkled like new fallen snow. This was how the room received its name. Since the rest of the group had looked over this room once before they told me to do some exploring on my own. I discovered that the room was sloping downward. Following it to the end, I found that the crystals in the wall had formed a small flower, a unique calcite formation. The Christmas Room was truly an experience I will never forget.

Moving onward, through crawlways, chimneys, and a bit of walking passage, we encountered on the wall of a small crevice, the Worm Garden. This contained a great number of helictites coming up in odd arrangements, namely, in the arrangement of a worm garden. This is another one of the many impressive formations one always remembers from Paxton's. No more than one hundred feet from the Worm Garden we looked down on a novelty. The formation of a cave had somehow been carved into the shape of a camel. From here we finally decided to start back to the entrance, but before our departure we had to look at one more area of the cave, the Big Room. When finding this room, one does not realize its actual size until climbing to the top of a large slope. The vast size of the place could be seen from here.

The entrance was still showing its tranquil beauty of a waterfall when we emerged from the cave. Looking back at what I had seen, I made a promise that one day I would return to the splendor and beauty that was Paxton's Cave.

J. Randall Stoutenburgh

\* \* \* \* \*

I'll do anything with a belay.

An anonymous  
LA member

## Various Descending Rigs Part II

This is Part II of an article which appeared in the Spring 1970 issue of the "Trog". In this segment I will present several more methods of rappeling. This list is by no means complete nor do I profess to be an expert on this subject. However, I am always interested in hearing about new methods of rappeling. If the reader knows of any I will be more than happy to hear about them.

### J-Bar

Similar to an upside down rack, the J-Bar works on the principle of constriction instead of relying mainly on friction. It is designed for use on ropes of 3/8" to 1/2" in diameter. It is constructed of tubular iron and break-bars.

**Advantages:** Rigging is not difficult and can be done in only one manner. The device provides a slow, easily controlled, spin free descent.

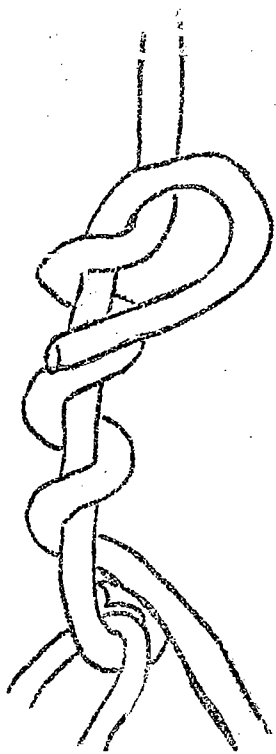
**Disadvantages:** Due to the large angle of bend put in the rope, there may be fiber damage. Being constructed of iron, the device is heavy and has poor heat dissipation properties. The major wearing point cannot be easily replaced. It cannot pass knots and functions with difficulty on drops of over 400'.

### Single Break Bar

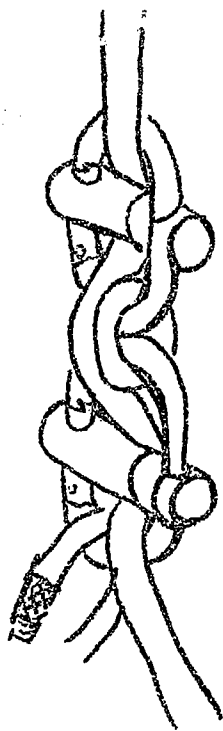
This is one of the older methods of mechanical descent. It consists of a brake bar and a carabiner. The rope passes over the brake bar and around ones back... Descent is controlled by wrapping the rope around the back and stomach. For lighter persons or slow ropes it can be controlled on the thigh.

**Advantages:** A primary advantage is the cost. A decent rig can be purchased for about \$2. It is light weight and can be used for other things. It can also be belayed from below. Rigging is simple.

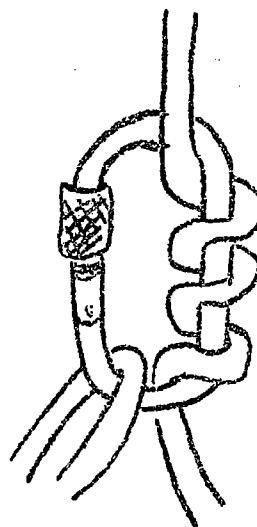
**Disadvantages:** Care must be taken not to loose control during the descent as it is almost impossible to regain control. Heat is not easily dissipated. Singles also tend to unlay a laid rope which results in severe kinking, and spinning. It should not be used on excessively long drops.



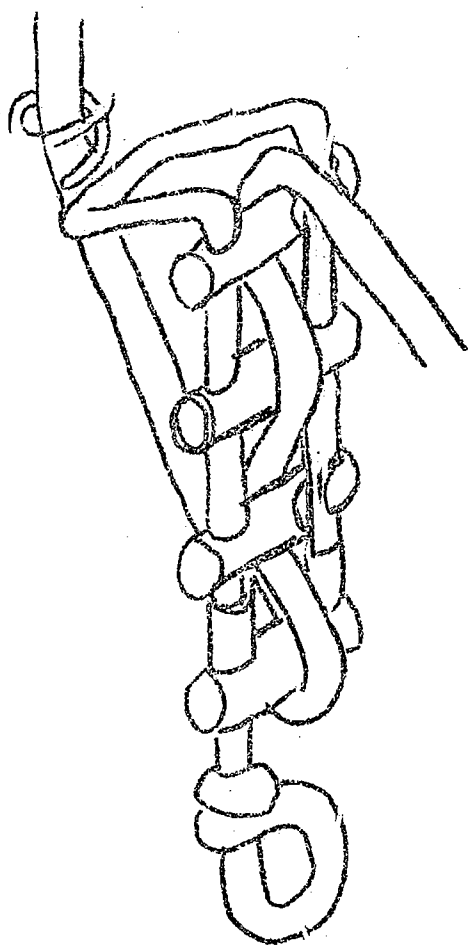
PATTEN'S HOOE



DOUBLE BRAKE BAR



SINGLE CARIBINER



J-BAR



PECK

### Double Brake Bar

As the name implies this is a version of singles consisting of two singles rigs connected by a ring, chain link, etc.

**Advantages:** The device is compact and lightweight and inexpensive. Parts are easily replaceable. It is easily rigged and does not unlay and kink a rope to the extent a single rig does. It can be used on drops of greater depth than a single, and provides a greater amount of control and safety.

**Disadvantages:** Care must be taken not to rig in backwards as this could lead to complications. Heat dissipation although better is still a problem on fast descents. Care must be taken in negotiating overhangs to insure the rope does not become derigged. The device cannot pass knots and should be restricted to drops of less than 250' depending on the users weight.

### Carabiner Wrap

The carabiner wrap is the simplest of all mechanical methods of descent. It consists of a single Carabiner, preferably the locking type. Descent is controlled by friction of the rope on the carabiner.

**Advantages:** This device is light-weight, inexpensive, has multiple uses and is easily rigged. It can be rigged in only one manner.

**Disadvantages:** The main disadvantage to this device is that due to the sharp bends, there is a strong danger of fiber damage. Being a wrap type device there is severe kinking, spinning and unlaying of the rope. It should not be used on drops of over 50'.

### Patten's Hook

The Patten's Hook is similar to the carabiner wrap except there is an open side. It is simply a specially bent piece of steel.

**Advantages:** It is easily rigged. It is lightweight and inexpensive. It can also pass knots.

**Disadvantages:** Being made of steel, heat dissipation is at a minimum. Being a wrap type device there will be kinking and spinning. Tension must be constant to insure the rope will remain rigged.



### Peck Descender

Like the Allain Descender, the Peck is a specially formed piece of aluminum.

Advantages: Being made of aluminum, heat is rapidly dissipated. It is easily rigged and can be rigged only one way. It can be used on long drops and will pass over knots.

Disadvantages: Being a wrap device there will be spinning and a small amount of kinking. Tension must be kept on the device to keep the rope from slipping off. It is a single use item.

### Scaribiner

This is an adaptation of the classic body rappel in which the rope instead of passing under one thigh passes through a carabiner then over the shoulder and down the opposite arm.

Advantages: The main advantage of this over the body rappel is that there will be no burning of the thigh in descent. This method is also inexpensive. It is easily and quickly rigged.

Disadvantages: Like the body rappel this method should be used only by a person experienced in rope work. Belays are necessary on all descents. Free fall descents result in large amounts of heat that have to be dissipated over the back and in the case of the body rappel-the thigh. Leather patches sewed in strategic spots will greatly decrease the probability of burns.

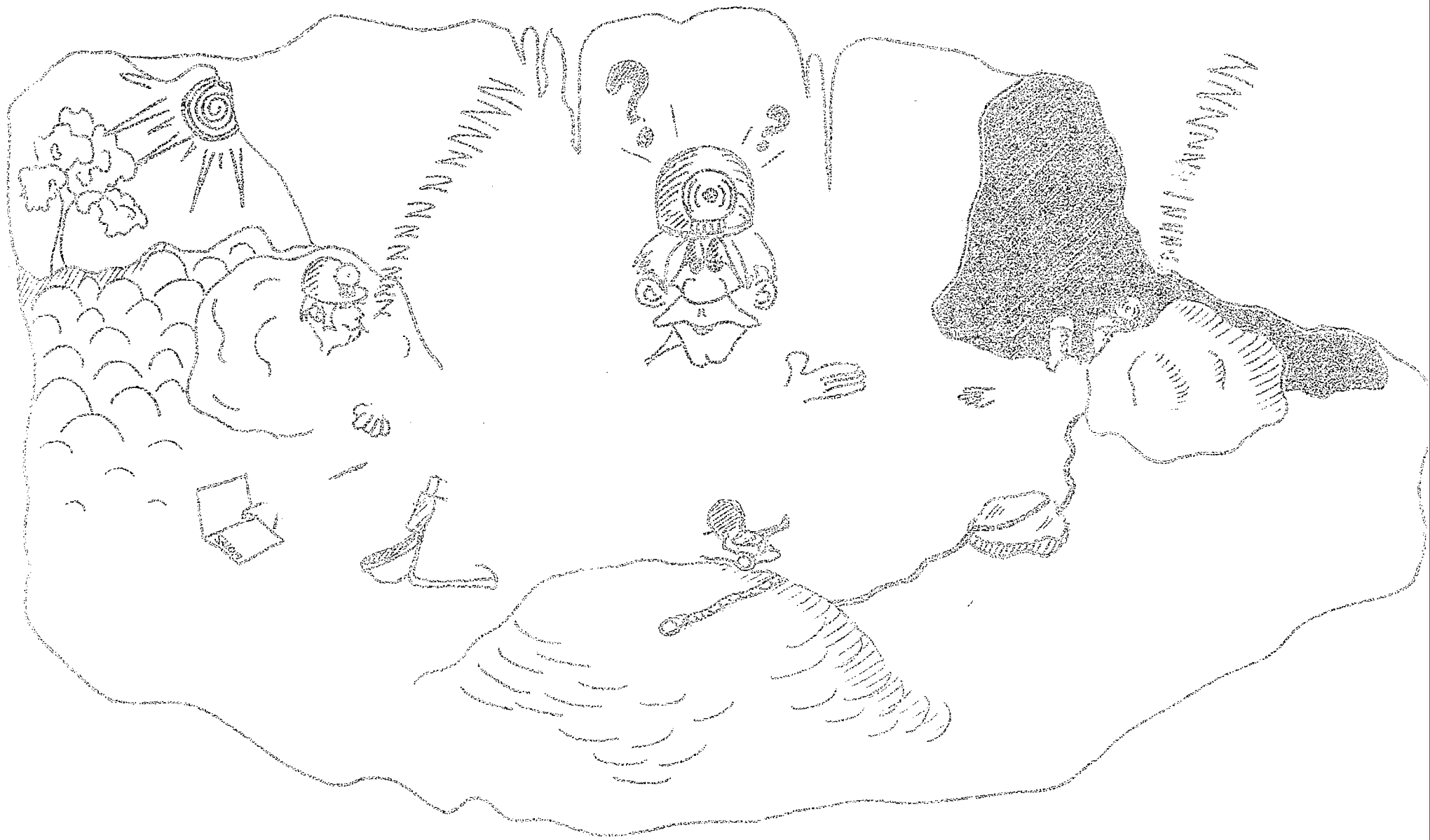
There are other methods of descent similar to the body rappel such as; French foot rappel and back rappel but these are just adaptations of the body rappel. Also there are many other mechanical methods such as; the Fisher Ring, the Fireman's Hook, and three carabiner rig. But, my intent is not to describe every method, just to introduce the reader to some of the more interesting methods. Also there is always someone with a "better idea", one of these was the infamous Coke bottle rappel, but, that is another story.

Guy Turenne

\* \* \* \* \*

A girl is a girl, but a rock is forever.

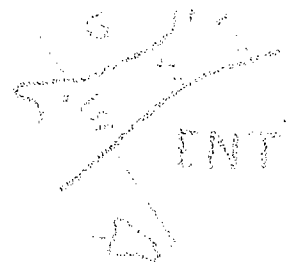
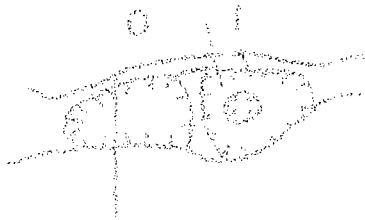
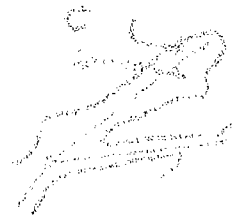
Rick Weber, GDRC



O.K. - I'VE GOT IT...

# KNOW YOUR CAVES

The Caves are all NSS TI Convention Caves. Try to identify the Caves by the passage section below.

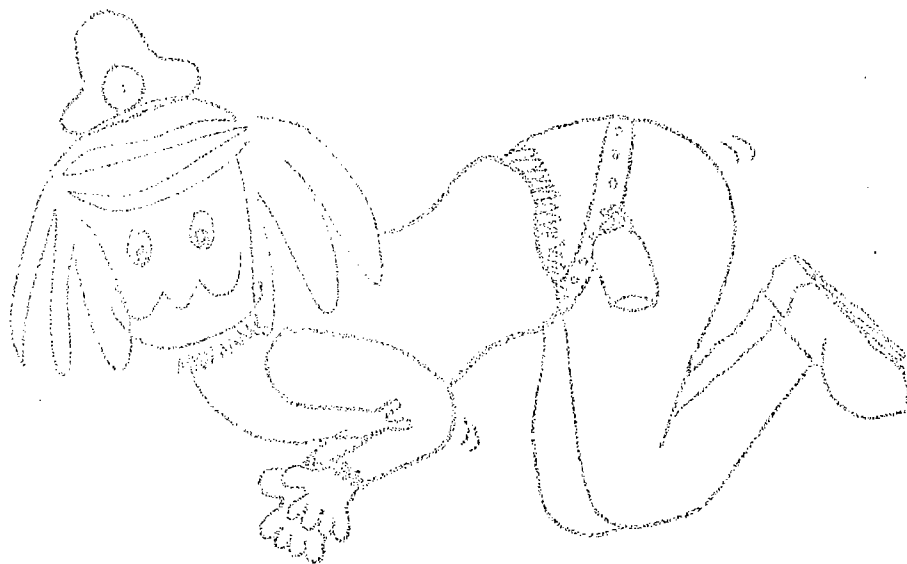


## THE CAVES

- NEW CASTLE MURDER HOLE
- TAWNEY'S
- SELUSSETT CHAPEL
- NEWBERRY-BANE
- CANOE
- PIC HOLE
- NEW RIVER
- MILLERS
- CLOVER HOLLOW

Bill Baily

more adventures of...



nybor

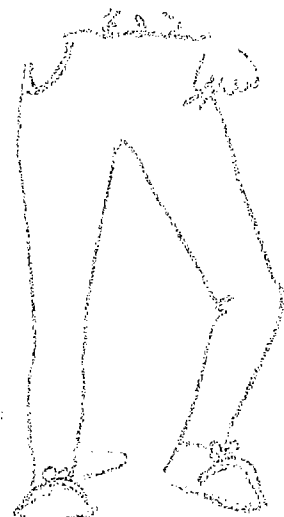
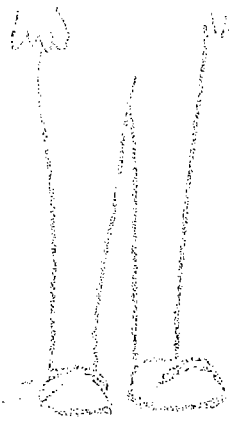




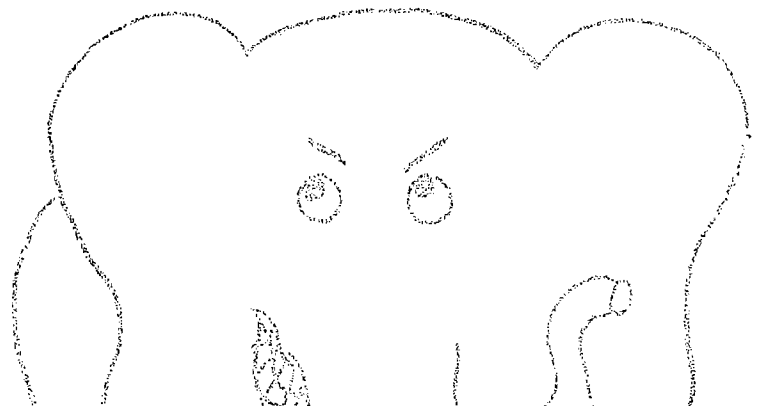
Were elephant  
trucks really  
made by  
elephants?



NO, you  
dumb trainee!



Heh, heh





PAUSE





## Valhalla - Impressive

"Ever been there?"

"Been where?"

"Valhalla"

"Valhalla... 'The Hall of the Gods'."

"Oh, never heard of it."

"Then let me tell you about it."

Stiffled yawn, "Do you have to?"

"Winston Harmon, Doug Perkins, Twila Youngman, and I left for the traditional Thanksgiving Alabama trip. On the way down poor Winston and I had to put up with Twila running her mouth about her relatives and Doug was always... well, let me get back to Valhalla.

"Yawn"

"When we arrived we had a great time driving around the Alabama countryside, supposedly looking for certain caves. Many miles and two days later we found ourselves walking up a trail to Valhalla. We walked and walked and walked some more. 'You sure this is the right way, Winston?' 'Yea, I'm sure (I think).'"

"Yawn"

"And then we were there. There was already a group from Florida there. Winston peered down the drop from an overhang and saw something that impressed all of us. The rope disappeared in a mist making the drop look very, very deep."

"Z Z Z Z Z...."

"Winston managed to croak out two words, 'O my!', and chewed on his fingers, like he does, when he said it. Several minutes later, when he regained his composure, he said in a very high pitched voice, 'We have to go down there? O my! Impressive, very impressive! Har!, har! har!'"

"Z Z Z Z ..."

"Are you listening?"

"Huh? Oh, yeah. Yawn."



"As we started to rig in, a girl from the Florida group had descended and announced that she was about thirty feet from the bottom and at the end of the rope. We then rigged in our rope next to theirs and the girl then rigged prussiks into our rope and reversed prussiked down to the bottom. Her calmness, throughout the incident, impressed us thoroughly. Well, what do you think?"

"Z Z Z Z , Huh"

"What do you think?"

"About what?"

"Valhalla"

"Yawn, never heard of it."

"Oh, what's the use?"

Ed Richardson

\* \* \* \* \*

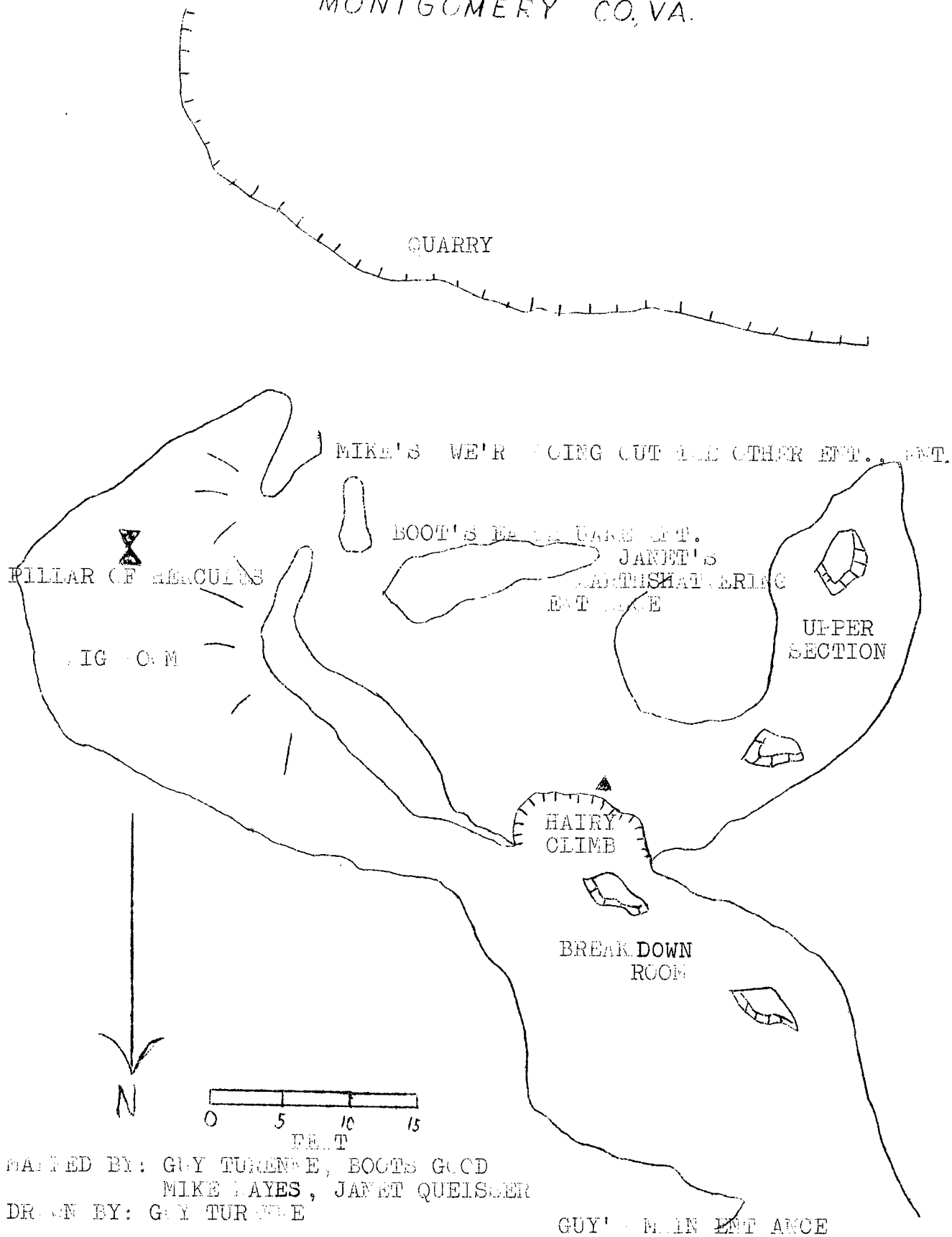
#### Erheart's

Erheart's Cavern can be found near a limestone quarry in Montgomery Co., Va. The following is an actual account of the fearless exploration and precision survey of this wondrous cavern--its massive breakdown room, its impressive formations, its spine-tingling exposure traverses and climbs, its bottomless and eternally black pits, and its four entrances, with the magnificent teamwork lying behind the discovery of each.

The afternoon of Dec. 12, 1970 saw most VPI cavers attending a 1971 Convention planning meeting, and looking forward to a typical party night of wine, women, and song... or beer, women, and song, or wine, beer, and song, (dependent completely on personal tastes and desires). What better activity for a caver to participate in? Why, daring and heroic cave exploration, of course. And so, at the completion of the meeting, the fickle flush of fate flawnted its fishy finger at Guy Turenne, Mike Kayes, Janet Queisser, and Boots Good, all of renowned VPI Cave Club spelunking fame. Struck by the survey-bug, these four headed for Erhearts, in search of adventure and fortune under the great out-of-doors.

Arriving in the vicinity of the quarry the frolicking foursome donned what caving attire they could find, which wasn't much. With bravery little recorded in the annals of caving history, Mike, Janet, and Boots planned to enter the dark uncertainty of the bowels of the earth in their street clothes. Guy, Boy Scout that he is, was well prepared, hardhat and lamp.

# ERHART CAVE MONTGOMERY CO, VA.



With boundless energy the four leaped up the bank of boulders and onto the railroad track that ran past the quarry. Springing from rock to rock on very brink of the quarry chasm, they finally spied the yawning blackness of the sinkhole, entangled by lush vines and brambles.

Fearlessly the four entered the twilight zone of Erheart's Entrance Room. Little heeding to our words of warning, Janet pushed still further into the dark recesses of the unknown. Following with one dying flashlight, Boots took lead tape, as Guy prepared to take notes. Mike, with skill and accuracy seldom achieved by this breed of adventurers, read Brunton. What an awesome scene it was! Four humble cavers, lowly mortals, valiantly attempting to conquer the immortal halls of the earth. Few people had seen these halls, and few others ever could; for Erheart's Cavern is doomed to extinction. As the limestone is gradually removed from the great quarry, the cave will slowly succumb to the forces of time- it will collapse in ruin.

With brilliant technique, the troupe mapped on... 10, 15, 20, 25 feet... and so the footage grew.

On into the Big Room they struggled. Formations! They lined the ceiling and walls. Massive breakdown cluttered the mighty chamber. And there, in the far end of the room stood a magnificent tribute to the creation of all caverns. Stretching from floor to ceiling, at least eight feet, in all its impressive splendor- The Pillar of Hercules.\*

Mapping through the big room, the crew retraced its route and began the tedious mapping of The Second Discovery Section. The discovery of a loop did not phase these courageous explorers. Guy, precise notetaker and sketcher that he was, simply "drew it in", and they proceeded on to the climb. Without a doubt the most difficult part of the trip, the fine foursome frocked fleetingly up the foul forbodence as simply as if it actually was the four foot high barrier that it was. Traversing along the crumbling ledge, Mike and Guy rivaled Floyd Collins in their bravery, as they slipped to hands and knees to enter the tight sinuous crawlway. After much struggle, they emerged, victorious conquerors of about five feet of vicious cavern.

Pushing on through the unknown, with teamwork unequalled anywhere, the four joyously discovered two entrances. Boots, having left the cavern a few whiles

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\*So named by the Honorable Michael T. Kayes.

earlier to do some surface work on the rim of the quarry, found signs indicating earthquake activity, and looking down through one of the larger crevices, saw the light of one of her fellow cavers. With courage unbounded, she tested the boulders around the crevice, as gravel and sod slid through the holes into the silence below. Hearing Janet's voice, she climbed down closer to the edge of the quarry to find Janet at still another entrance. Passing out the tape to Boots for measurement, the crew completed the brunton and tape survey of Erheart's Cavern.

Emerging into the twilight of the Blacksburg evening, the team happily headed for the cars and home-proud in their accomplishments and feats of skill. For like all good cavers, they knew they could look forward to many glorious hours of partying.

The indescribable wonders found in Erheart's Cavern mapped out to a total length of 173 feet and 8 inches, at total depth of 50 feet. There were 10 stations set and the group accumulated, to the honor and glory of VPI Grotto, five whole man-hours underground.

Boots Good

\* \* \* \* \*

#### CAVE GOD and EVAC DOG.

And on the 8<sup>th</sup> day the great Cave God realized that the stuff he was doing was causing paper work that cluttered his desk. He summoned Evac Dog and commanded that the papers be arranged in some mystical order so that he and Evac Dog would know the method. Evac Dog, after many formations, decided the most obvious would be the most inconspicuous and recommended to Cave God to use the alphabet.

Cave God was overwhelmed, "Beautiful Evac Dog, now all we do is create an alphabet."

And it came to pass that in a little town of Karst County that many things were filed. Four black and darkly alphabetized file drawers, the sacred topos, one forbidden folder, and three flimsy cardboard files.

The black drawers were arranged in typical Cave God fashion. The top one contained secret documents such as the Tech Troglodyte in a complete collection, all the self-incriminating minutes from the War Trials held since the 40's, plus other nose running items as the sign out sheet, Grotto Grapevine and all other documents that have to do with the drunken organization of BULCEVACIPV.

In drawer 2 (which could be drawer B so as to be in alphabetical order) one finds many secret maps of the underground world, some mystically snowed with unexplainable symbols and others neatly cluttered with artificial sloppy hand writing explaining the depth of Cave God's domain. Beyond the poorly folded sunfaded maps are all the unstolen documents that shall one day be used to free cavers from the eternal lightness secretly named NSS stuff (NSS means Never Slightly Seen stuff). Such scrolls as the News and Bulletins. And as an added attraction more important minutes from the judge's room in Tar Eloh Cave off the BOG (Brothers of God).

In file 3 (or C) contains banned underground books that are in Evac Dog collection. Speleo Digests lead the list of books that "ware your pants out from the inside." It is one of those books put out annually that come out only to shame cavers around the world. These were written about Cave God by the followers of his preachings. There are two other books that have sticky pages (and when left alone fall open to the smuttiest parts in them) called Caves of Virginia and Caverns of West Virginia. To read the articles in this file one must sneak in the file room and quietly steal them. So far, not many cavers have been successful.

In the bottom file (or top, depending on the mood the Cave God is in) there is a big pile of extra stuff, valuable only as information for cavers to use against land owners. These contain locations of caves that cave owners have even forgotten. This is the most important unused part of the great magic black files, because here one can find caves that only Cave God and Evac Dog reveal at the Friday night orgies, knowing full well that nobody is listening.

In the folder of sacred topos are such foldouts as a  $7\frac{1}{2}$  minute quad of the karst country ( $7\frac{1}{2}$  minute means that it is as long as you can look at one before some idiot asks, "what dat". And more confusing 15 minute quads that give you more time to look at it, because it is sprinkled with less detail.

The forbidden folder made of wood from the forbidden fruit tree are the same maps that are in file 2 (or is it file B) plus intermediate printers that can be used to make more of the same stuff so as to polute the minds of new cavers.

Housed in the flimsey cardboard files are the exchange publications which we keep because we want other Grottos to keep ours; only knowing that we really wonder where (or why) they keep the trash we send them.

The above information was received from Evac Dog when threats of removing all the fire hydrants from the streets and fencing in all the elementary school yards so he could not run around and be obscene in front of young children and embarrass the teachers when the children ask what he is doing. He made a promise to try to get more people to use the great collection of papers so we could collect more money to buy carbide with the fine money.

Bill Douty

\* \* \* \* \*

#### Major Rexrodes

Rexrodes Cave, W. Va., is an extremely interesting and challenging cave. Although reported as only 450 feet long, it offers quite a lot of verticle experience.

Most of the verticle work in Rexrodes can be done without ropes however they are advised. Our trip took in 30 feet of Perlton, 150 feet of Goldline, 200feet Blue Water II, 235 feet of Sampson and over 100 feet of handlines, over 700 feet of rope, more than the total length of the cave. Climbing skills, from chimneying to scrambling can be put to use. There is little exposure and a beginner can gain confidence there, but it is technical enough to please those with experience.

There are several places which must be rigged. The entrance slopes about 50 degree and ends in a 15 foot drop. One of the pits near the rear spirals down and out of sight. Many of the climbs can be lead, but it is much more convenient to fix a rope for the rest of the party.

Rexrodes layout is interesting. It is mapped as 450 feet long, in a straight line. The ceiling is level, with large, rather impressive stalagtites. Breakdown has covered the floor and nearly fills to the ceiling in

several places. There are few side passages. One runs into the water table and the others end rather unspectacularly within a few yards.

Beyond the end of the mapped region, the breakdown approaches the ceiling. Over the breakdown is another 150 foot or so of cave before it finally fills.

Rexrodes doesn't go anywhere, it doesn't do anything. Its formations are interesting, but not spectacular. However it is challenging and fun. If you enjoy verticle work, then Rexrodes is your cave.

Beth Becker

\* \* \* \* \*

Special!!

We heard that A.I. Cartwright even registered in a Physics class last quarter and was doing pretty well, but owing to a rule of the college limiting the number of absences he had to be dropped from the roll. That's a real cave man for you...When he can't even stay above ground long enough to attend classes.

According to the Sept. 1 1944 Grotto Grapevine, the club was once considering building a bridge in Clover Hollow. (Cartwright suggested a steal tubing job that could be constructed over the 143' drop) to save about 6 hours on every trip and they'd still be in top shape by the time we hit the bottom of the drop-off.

There was an interest in getting National Geographic Magazine to do an article on caves in the vicinity of Blacksburg--or even Life to print 'Life Goes on a Cave Trip.'

\* \* \* \* \*

My mind is like calculus, it has a limit.

Tuna Johnson

\* \* \* \* \*

## THE VALLEY OF THE CAVES

The road from Eggleston, in Giles County, Virginia, west to Saltville, in Smyth County, Virginia, is not an impressive road; nor is it, on the surface at least, a significant road. For 78 miles it snakes its way through rural Southwest Virginia in the valley immediately north-west of Walker Mountain. The valley is drained by Walker Creek to the east and North Fork Holston River to the west.

Driving along this road the opportunities which this road provides are not apparent - old homes, rocky fields - a mountain range which has blocked the flow of prosperity from the east - Appalachia creeping in from the west. The opportunities are hidden by the rocks and yet are not a part of them; holes in the ground - caves.

Historically, the caves have been of little value to the people of the area. To the west they had momentary economic value as sources of saltpeter (Repass Saltpeter, Tilson Saltpeter, Buchanan Saltpeter). To the east, they had a negative value. Clean, cool streams ran down Walker Mountain toward the limestone pastures, only to "sink" into the ground at the edge of the fields. Local people sometimes dared to explore the caves, invariably to be stopped by a "bottomless" pit or an "impassible" passage.

The caves of the valley were much more significant to the world of the spelunker. In the 1940's and the early 1950's, when organized caving was in its infancy the valley was a proving ground for many of the eastern cavers. They found and at least partially explored at least 70 caves and mapped the ten most significant:

NAME	LENGTH (ft.)	DEPTH (ft.)
Straley's	1500±	150±
Miller's	2350±	300
Bane's Spring	1750	30
Newberry-Bane's	11,925	350
Buddy Penley's	2,000	175
Repass Saltpeter	2,700	150
Tilson Saltpeter	2,000	100±
Buchanan Saltpeter	6,000±	100±
Spence	500	413
Seabolt	350	300

In the mid-1960's, a second generation of cavers following the groundwork of the "ol' timers", again are challenging the Valley of the Caves. Bane's Spring, with



1750' of previously mapped passage was pushed to 8000'. Buddy Penley's Cave, with 2000' was pushed to 7300'. Exploration and mapping trips into the lower level averaged 14 hours.

And the challenge continues to expand. The true extent of Newberry-Banes is only now beginning to be realized as remapping continues. 17,000' have been surveyed to date. Paul Penley's Cave, with 300' of previously known passage, has been pushed to one mile and each survey trip continues to find more virgin cave. The last four survey trips into the newly discovered lower level have averaged 13 hours.

As a result of these surveys, it has become apparent that these four caves - Bane's Spring, Newberry-Banes, Buddy Penley's, Paul Penley's - are part of one system - the Skydusky Hollow System (See TROGLODYTE, Vol. VII No. 3). Total length of these four caves is approaching nine miles.

In the far western end of the valley, Spence and Seabolt are being explored further and remapped. A new and promising cave has been located near there, but has not been completely explored.

#### PRESENT STATUS OF THE CAVES OF THE VALLEY

NAME	LETTER ON MAP	STATUS	LENGTH	DEPTH
Straley's	A	Mapped	1500±	150
Miller's	B	Mapped	2350	330
Skyduski Hollow				
Bane's Spring	C	Re-mapped	8000	50±
Newberry-Banes	D	Being re-mapped	25000±	300±
Buddy Penley's	E	Re-mapped	7300	252
Paul Penley's	F	Being mapped	5500±	200±
Coon	G	Mapped	1800	200±
Byrd's Drop	H	-	1000±	200±
Repass Saltpeter	I	Mapped	2700	150
Tilson Saltpeter	J	Mapped	2000	100±
Buchanan Saltpeter	K	Re-mapped	6000±	100±
Spence	L	Being Re-mapped	500±	413
Seabolt	L	Being Re-mapped	1000±	300
Average			4971	211

#### RUMORS AND OTHER INFORMATION OF THE CAVES OF THE VALLEY

##### Straley's Cave

There is a second cave, several hundred feet long immediately east of the second entrance, and less than 20 feet away. Obviously part of the system.

Ed F. Morgan

Miller's Cave

Probably more cave there.

Doug Perkins  
Mike Frieders

Bane's Spring Cave

Mapped by R. E. Whittemore; more passage not likely. Comes within 120 feet of Newberry-Banes Cave.

Ed F. Morgan

Newberry-Banes Cave

17,000 feet mapped; at least 8,000 feet remaining.  
Pete Schnaars

Paul Penley's

Survey continuing; may be nearing completion.  
Ed F. Morgan

Buddy Penley's

Possible connection with Newberry-Banes. Survey completed, but slight possibility for more cave.  
Ed F. Morgan

Coon Cave

Mapped, but completely explored?  
Paul Broughton

Byrd's Drop

Needs mapping. Has 160-foot, two part drop.  
Ed F. Morgan

Repass Saltpeter

Needs some work. Map is hard to follow. Tilson's Cave No. 2 has good chance of connecting. Old map indicates a lead in the back of the cave.  
Ed F. Morgan

Tilson Saltpeter

Map fairly accurate.  
Ed F. Morgan

Buchanan Saltpeter

About 6,000 feet long. No real need for a new map.  
Ed B. Morgan

Spence Cave

Mapping in progress.  
Don Davidson

Seabolt Cave

Mapping in progress; might be 1,000 feet long. There is another cave in the area about 2,000 feet long and still going.

Don Davidson

## GEOLOGICAL REPORT OF THE VALLEY OF THE CAVES

To a casual observer looking at Charles Butts' Geologic Map of the Appalachian Valley in Virginia (1933), the conclusion would be, "What a wierd looking map!" To an intent geologist, or a person with an interest in geology, one of the conclusions might be about an orange and white slashed strip that winds its way from Newcastle down beyond Skydusky Hollow in Bland Co. on into Tennessee. This strip of orange is described by Butts as the Beekmantown group. In the area concerned in this article, it starts at Newcastle in Sinking Creed Mountain, comes down through Gap Mountain, and into Big Walker Mountain which goes all the way to Saltville.

Butts described the LOB (Lower Ordovician Period, Beekmantown Group) in Pennsylvania as having three different members. But when the LOB was traced into Virginia, it became hard to distinguish between the different members. Therefore it was just called the Beekmantown Group. At the same time the LOB was known to be underlain by the Chepultepec formation, a cherty dolomite of the Lower Ordovician period. This fact and the existence of a major fossil, Lecanospira, a flat-coiled snail, were the bases of correlation of the strata throughout the valley.

However in more recent times, the LOV has been referred to as the Upper Knox Group. It has also been divided up into different members as shown by the chart. Cooper (1961) described the Knox dolomite group as 2000 feet or more of cherty and sandy limestone with one to three zones of fine grained dolomitic limestones containing fossils.

<u>Name of formation</u>		<u>Period</u>
Clinch ss.		Silurian
Juniata fm.		Ordovician
Martinsburg fm.		"
Eggleston fm.		"
Moccasin fm.		"
Witten ls.		"
Benbolt ls.		"
Middle Ordovician lms.		"
disconformity ~~~~~~		
Knox Group	Mascot dol.	"
	Kingsport dol.	"
	Longview ls.	"
	( <u>Lecanospira</u> fossil)	
	Chepultepec fm.	"
	Copper Ridge dol.	Cambrian
	Nolichucky sh.	
Honaker dol.		

In the Wytheville-Pulaski area, the lower 1500-1800 feet is a banded magnesium limestone, impure cherty dolomite, with several zones of rusty weathering quartz sandstones. Northwest of Walker Mountain, the lower part of the LOK\* is practically all dolomite. This dolomite is the product of near complete dolomitization of limestone which has almost crowded out the limestone lithology. The upper part of the LOK is variable in thickness. For example, in Giles County, the dolomite is less than or equal to 300 feet thick. There are places where the LOK is entirely absent due to previous tectonism\*\*

It should be pointed out that dolomitic limestone offers a very good possibility for caves because it usually fractures easily. Obviously the LOK fulfills this requirement. But the fact is, caves are formed along joints and faults and they aren't going to be found just anywhere in the LOK. In order to completely understand the geology of the LOK and the caves in it, a thorough study would have to be made of the jointing and faulting of the Knox Group throughout southwest Virginia.

Tuna Johnson

Sources:

Butts, Charles, (1933) Geologic Map of the Appalachian Valley in Virginia, USGS.

Cooper, B. N., (1961) Grand Appalachian Field Excursion, Geology Guidebook I, VPI.

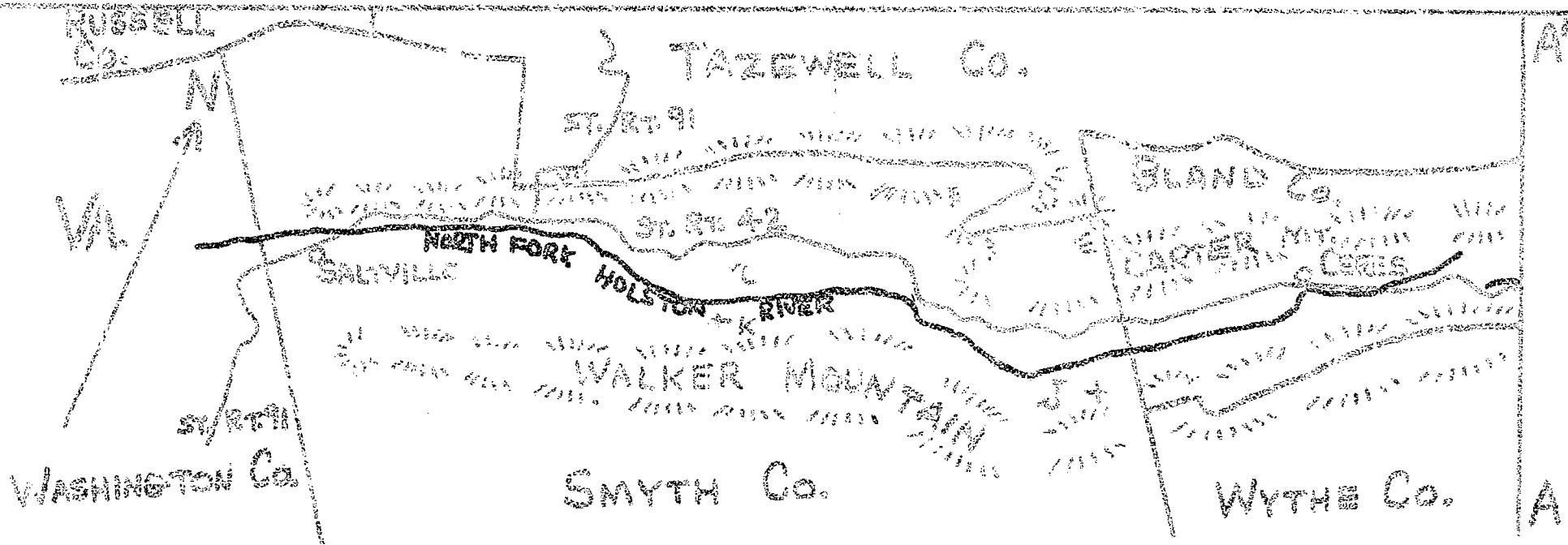
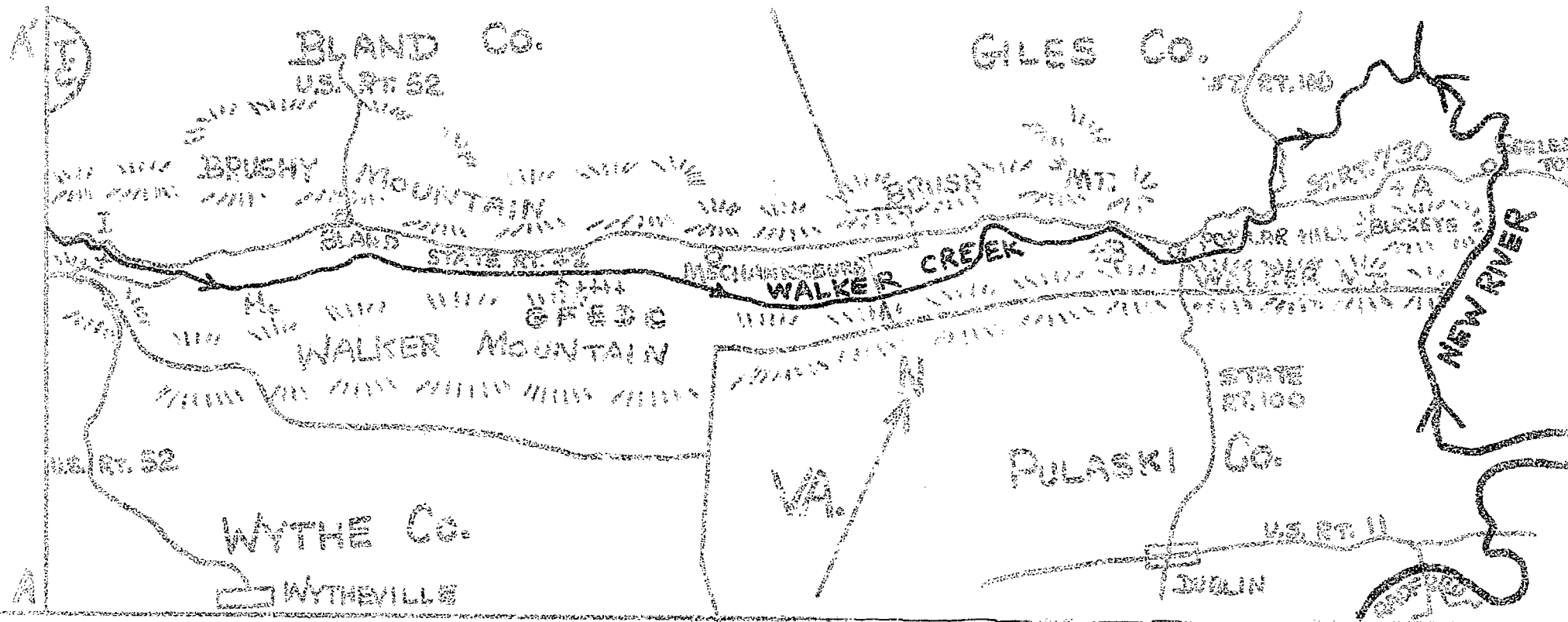
/\* Lower Ordovician period, Knox Group

\*\* Tectonism- the structural behavior of an element of earth's crust during, or between, major cycles of sedimentation.

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IMPLICATIONS OR THERE'S MORE CAVE  
IN THAT THERE VALLEY

In Layman's (caveman's) terms, the conclusion that can be drawn from the preceding Geological Report is simply that there occurs a layer, or bed of limestones extending along the northwestern side of Walker Mountain for the length of the valley. This bed is generally quite thick and is composed, for the most part, of dolomitic limestones. Such dolomitic limestone is favorable for the formation of caves. This bed is not flat lying and thus the end rather than the top of the bed is exposed. As a result, the bed is exposed along a relatively narrow strip.



Of the known, significant caves in the valley, all but Miller's<sup>1</sup>, Spence and Seabolt occur along this strip of exposed limestones, which is made up of exposed limestones, which is made up of the Knox Group and the limestones immediately above it. That is, in a narrow strip of limestones, some 70 miles long, on the north-western flank of Walker Mountain, there occurs ten significant caves, averaging 6,165 feet long and 188 feet deep. Of these ten caves, five occur within a two mile segment of the 70 mile strip. (Skydudky Hollow System and Coon Cave) The rest are widely scattered along the remaining 68 miles.

In 1963-64 a group of VPI cavers spent several weekends checking out one short segment of this strip and found four new caves, averaging some 700 feet and left several small leads. In the spring of 1970 the Grotto project was to check a two mile area immediately to the east of the Skydusky Hollow System and nothing of significant was found. Most of the strip has been checked, but very little has been checked intensively. The areas that have been checked intensively sometimes have yielded nothing new and sometimes a great deal. Obviously there is more cave there, though it may take considerable work to find it. So far the work has been quite rewarding. A fantastic amount remains. The work to date would indicate a great deal of cave remains to be found.

There are those who say Virginia is worked out. My own response is "Ha!"

Ed Morgan

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<sup>1</sup>Miller's Cave is formed in the same limestones but not in the same strip of exposure.

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\* \* \* \* \*

"If you eat your spinach you'll be strong as Popeye."

"Yeah, and you'll get girls like Olive Oyl."

Bill Douty

\* \* \* \* \*

## BANQUET 1971

Banquet Weekend officially began on Friday February 19 at 11:59 AM when a brass band and six thousand screaming coeds met Jack Stellmach (our honored banquet speaker) at Roanoke Airport. Would you believe the entire Ladies Auxilliary, accompanied by two twelve-strings and a fiddle, singing "We Love You Jack"? How about three cavers trying not to let it be too obvious that they were waiting for the weird looking character in a multi-colored beret (with pompom) with thick bushy muttonchops and wearing a gold earring?

Anyone who has attended a VPI Banquet Weekend knows that Friday night is when the real festivities start. The Meeting was met with droves of some old and not so old faces that were great to see, maybe even if you didn't know the people that went with them. The General Slide Show afterwards (complete with audio) brought back some of the past Happenings of the club. Included were: Lewd Scenes From OTR 1970, Daring Caving Expeditions, Subversive Activities of 3rd Floor Pritchard, Not So Daring Caving Expeditions, etc., etc. Somehow the party managed to work itself over to the Carbide Dump, where the festivities wildly staggered on into the wee hours, ending who knows where.

On Saturday the Evac Dog smiled upon us and gave us a beautiful day, very rare in Blacksburg in the winter. This could even be looked upon as a good omen, for the Convention Meeting, which convened much too early in the morning, went smoothly.

Later on, towards evening, a monumental first happened. Yes, that's right, Old Timers, a cocktail party! It's not so much that the VPI Grotto is plugging for a place in the Jet Set, it was decided that it was a good idea to give people the opportunity to get sociable early in the evening.

The Banquet itself was held at Squires Student Center and from most appearances, was quite successful. After the fine repast, Jack Stellmach presented us with stories of experiences from some of his seventeen NSS Conventions. The tales were too numerous to elaborate on here and Jack told us that he had many others and to hear more, we could either catch him at the party or invite him back again!

Then came the awards.

The Indecisive Decision Award went to Boots Good to help her in making future decisions.

Dale Parrot received the Bob Amundson Delinquent Flower Child Award for his delinquent driving feats at Speleo-a-go-go.

The Dedicated Caver Award went to Janet Queisser for her valiant attempts to get into Higgenbotham's Cave. She was given a giant pair of knitting needles to while the time til the water goes down.

Russ "Crash" Peterson received the Jim Hixson Safe Driving Award for his slightly tarnished sterling road record.

The Doug Draves Dropout Award was presented to Ed Loud for his history of always dropping in and also dropping out.

This year the Bill Douty Sex Award went to Tuna Johnson. He was given a book by a Master Bates, entitled, "Sex Without Contact".

The Paul Broughton Flame-out Award was presented to none other than Paul Broughton. For more details, consult Paul.

Then, with much dutiful respect, President Bob Amundson called a special meeting of the Grotto. After collecting the voting ballots, Don Davidson was unanimously (including his own vote) voted out of the out of the club. As the Bill Karrass Award, he was presented an official Grotto Trainee Sheet.

After Bill Douty graphically demonstrated the downward trends of the past Trainees of the Year, the Trainee of the Year was presented to Ed Richardson.

Guano Clusters this year were given to: Danny and Lynn Wright for coming all the way from up-state New York to attend the Banquet. To Janet Queisser for working hard for putting the Affair together. Robyn Wick, for doing a really fine job at constructing a remarkable likeness of old A. I. himself. Moose got one for being such a good Convention Chairman (so far!). And finally to the attending landowners, Mr. and Mrs. Sizer of Newcastle Murder Hole and Mr. Buddy Penley of the cave of that name.

The name was drawn and the Door Prize went to Dee Snell. She received a device known as the Portable Passage Pusher, which when used as directed, will make any tight crawlway look not quite so bad.



The bottle of Jack Daniel's Black Label was won by the lucky number of Jim Hixson. The second prize, a bottle of Cold Duck was won by Robyn Laffon.

By then, everyone was in the mood for a party and party we did. There were such highlights as R. E. Whittemore and his cohorts run across the street to do lewd things on the golf course. There were also fireworks, provided by the Corps for Military Ball, but we didn't mind. We also watched Mike Kayes eat beer cans and Jim Hixson impersonate a unicorn.

But wait until next year....

A. I. Cartwright

\* \* \* \* \*

#### Answers to KNOW YOUR CAVES

- (A) Roy's Drop, Miller's Cave
- (B) Beginning trunk chanel in Slusser's Chapel.
- (C) (Church Spires), Entrance Room, New River Cave
- (D) Cross-over, Newcastle Murder Hole
- (E) Top arrow points to 76' drop in entrance passage of Newberry-Banes.
- (F) Queen's Bath, Pig Hole
- (G) Entrance No. 2 to Tawney's

\* \* \* \* \*

Douty to Cheryl: You're cute and cuddly.  
Karl Hamm: How would you know?  
Douty: I check out equipment, too.

\* \* \* \* \*

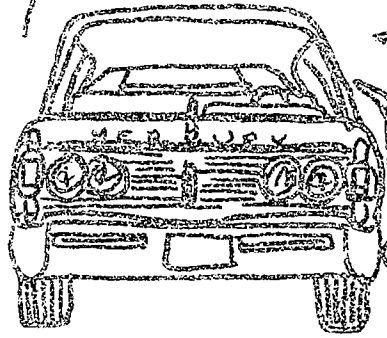
No one has a dirty mind, it's just that they haven't been whitewashed for a long time.

--Pam Mohr

\* \* \* \* \*

# ROGUE'S GALLERY

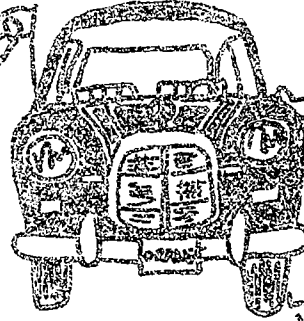
"Huffy the Horrible"



IT'D BE ALL  
RIGHT IF THE  
BACK WINDOW  
WOULD  
JUST STAY  
IN.

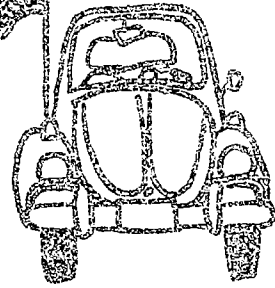
"Colon the Crude"

ESQDMF!



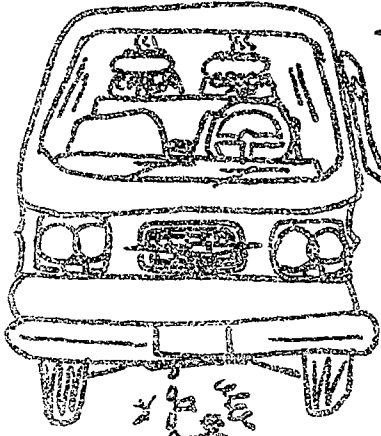
VERY  
UNITED  
VOCAB.

"Perkins the Pretentious"



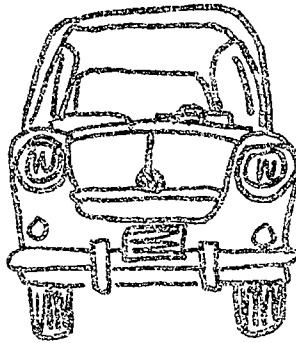
IF I CAN  
JUST STAY  
AWAY FROM  
DESIGNS,  
I MAY GUESS

"Crip" the Croak



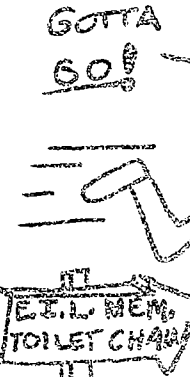
HERE IT IS:  
THE WORLD'S  
ONLY MOBILE  
CROAK  
OF  
S---T,  
THE  
CROAKWAGON

"Frame the Freak"



In 1/2  
OF THE  
SLEAZY  
RIDERS  
HE'S  
THE  
OTHER 1/2

"Loud the Loose"



GOTTA  
GO!

E.E.L. MEM.  
TOILET CHAIR

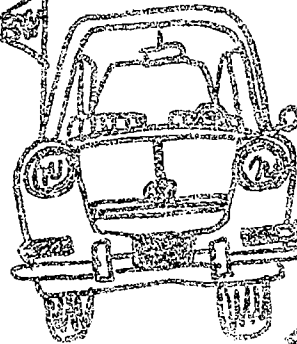
"Freiders the Frustrated"



WHAT'LE I  
DO IF HOLDING  
FINDS OUT  
ABOUT  
THAT  
PARTY!

HAI  
SOME  
2.40

"Page the Pre-Puberty"

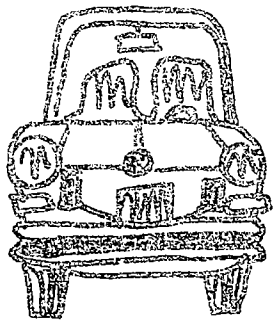


MAYBE  
I CAN GET  
OUT OF  
DIAPERS  
THIS  
YEAR?

MERE  
SOPH.

SPRING  
STEP

"Pit the Promised"



WHA  
WAS IN  
LAST  
DEN  
LIZ  
DE

## VPI COLOR CODE LIST

Black	bk	Green	g	Pink	pk	Silver	s
Blue	b	Gray	gr	Purple	p	White	w
Brown	br	Orange	o	Red	r	Yellow	y

NAME	COLOR	NAME	COLOR
Altman, Jim	o-b-o	Loud, Ed	b-r-b
Amundson, Bob	r-w-r	McClevey, Dennis	y-b-y
Barlow, Bob	y	McCarthy, Jean	r-y-r
Billet, Bill	bk-g-bk	Mohr, Pam	b-gr-b
Bromm, Jeff	b-s-b	Morgan, Ed	g
Broughton, Paul		Moss, Gary	r-b
Clifford, Mike	br-g	Nelson, Neil	r-bk-y
Coleman, Ned	b-g-r	O'Meara, Jack	w-r-w
Conefrey, Mike	g-bk-g	Page, Bob	b-y
Cooke, Larry	g-y-g	Park, Bill	r-y-bk
Dame, Howard	bk-r-y	Parrot, Dale	bk
Davis, Jan	o-g-y	Perkins, Doug	bk-w-r
Davidson, Don	bk-s-bk	Peterson, Russ	b
Dawson, Moose	w-b-w	Queisser, Janet	g-b
Douty, Bill	g-w-g	Richardson, Ed	b-y-b
Draves, Soug	y-bk	Riordan, Steve	bk-y-bk
Ellenfield, Craig	g-w-b	Robinson, Steve	o-bk-o
Fagan, Joey	g-r-o-g	Roehr, Tom	r-o-r
Frieders, Mike	y-r-y	Schnaars, Pete	r-w-b
Good, Boots	bk-pk-bk	Slusarski, Mark	bk-w-bk
Grube, Larry	r-y-b	Stoutenburgh, Randy	b-g-b
Hall, Steve	r	Stringfellow, Bill	g-r-g
Hamm, Karl	r-bk-r	Talmadge, Jim	r-s-r
Harmon, Winston	p-o-b	Thorne, Wes	bk
Harris, Jim	r-y-g	Turenne, Guy	bk-r-bk
Hixson, Jim	r-gr-r	Vigour, Tom	g-w-g-w-g
Hogan, Mike	r-g-bk	Vinzant, Lynn	
Johnson, Tuna	g-y-b	Webb, Dennis	b-w-b
Jones, Cheryl	b-o-b	Weber, Rick	
Kayes, Mike	b-g-w	Whittemore, Annie	r-g
Laffoon, Don	br-w-r	Whittemore, Whitt	w-bk-y
Leach, Liz	g-b-g	Wick, Nancy	b-bk-b
LaFon, Robyn	b-r-bk	Wick, Robyn	br
Leonard, Lenie	p-pk-p	Wright, Danny	g-r-b
Lewis, Bob	w-y-b		

\* \* \* \* \*

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