

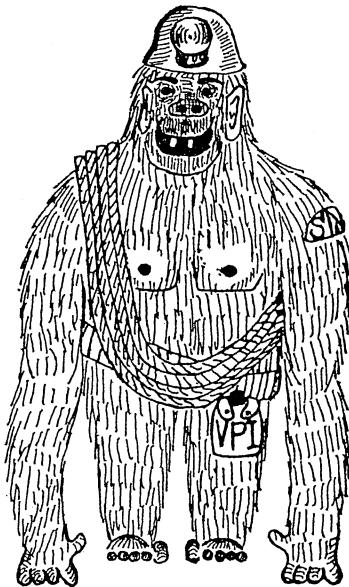
# THE TECH TROGLODYTE

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

Box B-5  
Va. Tech Station A  
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Vol. III, No. 4

Summer Quarter, 1965



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News flash. Truth telling tape topples tall tale. The club survey tape, expert in diss spelling myths, has popped another bubble. The sixty foot drop at Maybrook Sinkhole was surveyed by John Peduzzi and R.E. Whittemore on August 4 and found to be a mere 52 feet.

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## EDITOR'S COLUMN

The age-old VPI Grotto has somehow survived one of its best years. Not only did every Saturday see at least two or three trips leave campus, but not a single Friday night passed without a songfest, beer party, and/or drunken orgy.

The "Tech Trashcollector" staff would like to take this opportunity to thank Bob Robins, Chester Greco, Bob Mallis, Mr. Plank, and Dr. West for providing space for these events. We would also like to thank John Eads, "Ferp" Thompson, Henry Stevens, Mike Bohn, Jack Keat, Bob Croft, and several others who provided varying degrees of instrumentation which, along with the beer, help make these events a success. And to those of you, who, on occasion, couldn't quite hold it all, we would like to extend a special note of thanks because of the suffering you experienced the next day to provide the club with so many laughs the night before. Let's hope next year is just as good.

The big social event of this past quarter was, as usual, the club picnic. Thanks to good planning by Paul Helbert, Whitey Eubank, Bob Mallis, and Dixon Hoyle, the affair was quite a success. To those of you who didn't make it home that night, we say "Can you think of anything better to do with two kegs of beer?" And to those of you who found Trout Creek so enjoyable, we say, "Congratulations!"

When the VPI Student Grotto orders rope, we don't fool around. Our last order was for 3600 feet of goldline. That should be enough for a belay-belay-belay-belay-belay!

Probably what will prove to be the most significant political event in club history occurred this year: the demise of the obnoxious leadership system. Naturally, this event was closely followed by an overall increase in caving activity, and not, as some people predicted, by an increase in fatal injuries within the club. Perhaps the fact that members are now getting more caving experience has made them safer cavers.

There will be those among us who will sigh nostalgically for the days when they could approach a group of neophytes and draw looks of awe by saying, "I'm a qualified-ABC-Horizontal-Vertical-Hero LEADER!" Then, of course, there are those who, with the loss of their status symbol, left our fold. Tsk! You should have known it was coming. For the past two years, the members who have been doing all the caving never had time to pass the ridiculously complicated requirements. A meaningless ordeal is gone, we hope, forever.

To those of you who have been puzzled by the somewhat sporadic appearance of this journal of speleology, I shall devote a few lines to explain our "policies". We try to publish four times a year. We publish when we have enough material to make an issue. Our fiscal year ends August 31. This date will end Volume III and begin Volume IV. Looking back, Vol. I had four issues, and Vol. II had only one. This volume, (III) has four. The number of issues in Vol. IV will depend upon the amount of writing done between August 31, 1965, and August 31, 1966.

You may notice a slight difference between this issue and the last three, other than its obvious brevity. We are now using smaller type. This reduces our costs and gives our subscribers more for their money. Speaking of subscriptions, our rates are still 1¢ per page. Send \$3 or \$5 to the VPI Cave Club (make checks payable to the VPI Cave Club, not Gary or I) at box B-5 (see cover) and you will receive your own personal copy of the Tech Troglodyte four times yearly (more or less).

Before I close, let me remind you, dear reader, that all articles contained herein are signed by the author, and are his opinions alone. They do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Grotto, its members, officers, or the Troglodyte staff. If you are in disagreement with any of them, please direct your criticism to the person whose name appears at the end of the article. Letters concerning anything herein are welcome. Our address is printed on the cover. So much for that.

Hope to see you all at the Ole Timers' Reunion, Labor Day weekend, in Franklin, West Virginia.

Managing Editor  
(R. E. Whittemore)

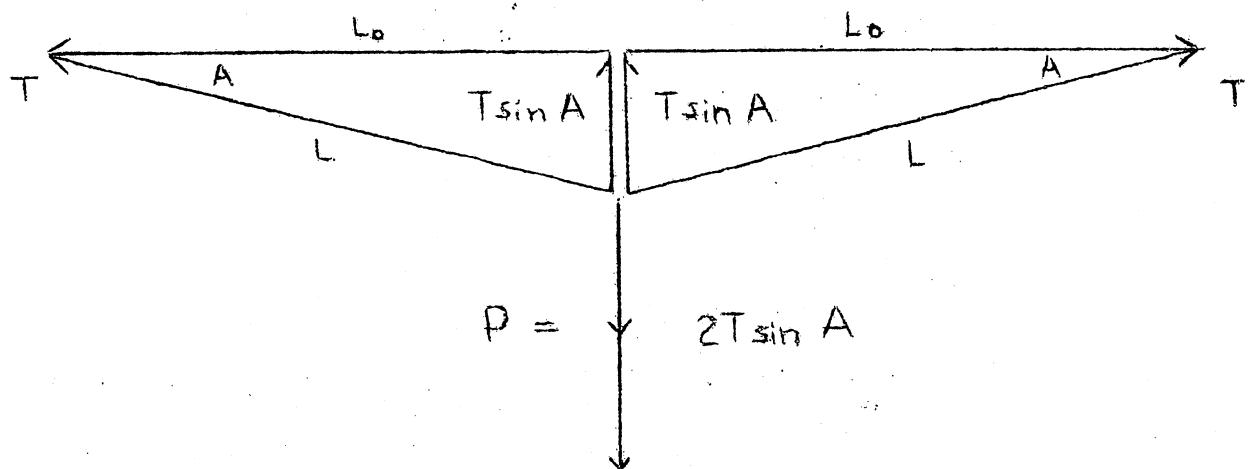
submitted for publication: July 14, 1965

#### THE TYROLEAN TRAVERSE

##### I. Calculation of Loads:

The maximum safe load that can be applied to a tightly-stretched Tyrolean traverse will be computed.

The "worst case" is a horizontal span with the load applied at the midpoint. Therefore, this case will be the only one considered.



$A$  is the angle which the rope makes with a straight line between the supports. The rope will, of course, stretch under tension.  $2L_0$  is the initial length;  $2L$  is the length of the rope under load ( $L_0$  and  $L$  are for  $\frac{1}{2}$  the span).

$$\cos A = \frac{L_0}{L}$$

$$\sec A = \frac{1}{\cos A} = \frac{L}{L_0}$$

$$\frac{L}{L_0} - 1 = \text{rope stretch} = \sec A - 1$$

$A$  will be found for stretches of 10%, 15%, and 20% (for nylon rope); also, the stretch will be found for which a 200 lb. load produces a 530 lb. tension in the rope ("working load" for a  $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch manila rope).

$$\begin{array}{ll} \sec A = 1.10 & A = 24^\circ 37' \\ \sec A = 1.15 & A = 29^\circ 35.5' \\ \sec A = 1.20 & A = 33^\circ 33.5' \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{l} \sin A = .41655 \text{ for } 10\% \text{ stretch} \\ \sin A = .49382 \text{ for } 15\% \text{ stretch} \\ \sin A = .55278 \text{ for } 20\% \text{ stretch} \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{l} 2T \sin A = P = 0.833T \text{ for } 10\% \text{ stretch} \\ 2T \sin A = P = 0.988T \text{ for } 15\% \text{ stretch} \\ 2T \sin A = P = 1.106T \text{ for } 20\% \text{ stretch} \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{l} T = 1.20P \text{ for a } 10\% \text{ stretch} \\ T = 1.01P \text{ for a } 15\% \text{ stretch} \\ T = 0.90P \text{ for a } 20\% \text{ stretch} \end{array}$$

The stretch of a nylon rope at its "working load" (generally accepted as 20% of its breaking strength) will almost always be within the limits of 10% and 20%. However, it can be seen that at this stretch, the Tyrolean traverse becomes substantially equal to a two-point sling at an included angle of  $120^\circ$ , in which the tension in each leg is equal to the load. Thus, it can be seen that a nylon rope used in a Tyrolean traverse can support a load approximately equal to its "safe working load" without grossly exceeding this stress.

The angle  $A$  at which a load of 200 lbs. will produce a rope stress of 530 lbs. will now be calculated. This represents one man on a traverse of  $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch manila rope.

$$200 = 2(530) \sin A$$

$$\sin A = \frac{200}{2(530)} = 0.18868$$

$$A = 10^\circ 52.6'$$

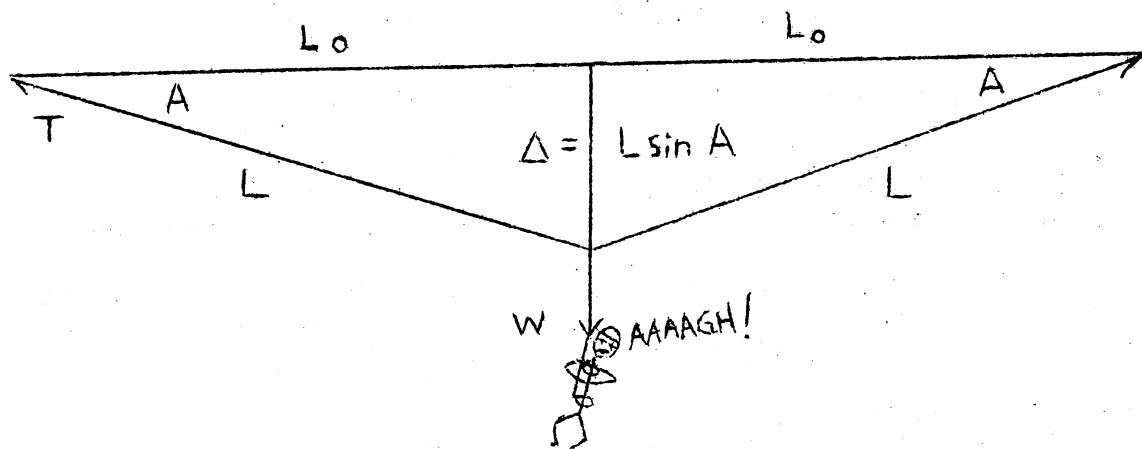
$$\sec A = 1.0183$$

$$\begin{array}{l} \sec A - 1 = \text{rope stretch} \\ \text{rope stretch} = 1.83\% \end{array}$$

Since a manila rope stretches about 3% when dry, and 10% when wet, it can be pulled up tight. (By "pulled up tight", it is meant pulled up as tight as possible by hand. Use of rigging, such as a 2-prusik 2-karabiner hoist, will take up some of the rope stretch. While this is unimportant in nylon, it can cause the stresses to be excessive in dry manila.)

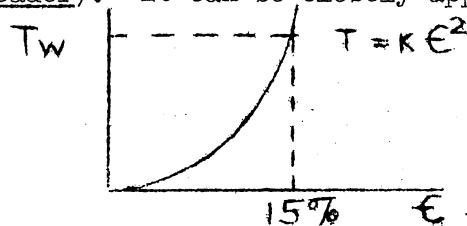
## II. Shock loads on a Tyrolean traverse

The falling weight which will stress a Tyrolean traverse to its working load will be computed for the following cases: 3/8-inch, 7/16-inch, and  $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch nylon rope; assuming a 15% stretch at working load; and  $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch Manila rope, assuming a 3% stretch at working load



$$\text{For } 15\% \text{ stretch: } A = 29^\circ 35.5^\circ \quad \sin A = .49382$$

The stress-strain curve of a rope is highly nonlinear (see Belaying the Leader). It can be closely approximated by a parabola.



$$\begin{aligned} T_w &= 800 \text{ lbs. for a } 3/8\text{-inch nylon rope} \\ T_w &= 1100 \text{ lbs. for a } 7/16\text{-inch nylon rope} \\ T_w &= 1300 \text{ lbs. for a } \frac{1}{2}\text{-inch nylon rope} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} T &= \text{tension} \\ \epsilon &= \text{stretch/unit length} \end{aligned}$$

The area under the curve, which represents the energy absorbed per foot of rope, is equal to  $1/3 T \epsilon = E$

$$E = 1/3 (800)(.15) = 40 \text{ ft-lbs/ft for } 3/8\text{-inch nylon rope}$$

$$E = 1/3 (1100)(.15) = 55 \text{ ft-lbs/ft for } 7/16\text{-inch nylon rope}$$

$$E = 1/3 (1300)(.15) = 65 \text{ ft-lbs/ft for } \frac{1}{2}\text{-inch nylon rope}$$

Note that this is per foot of  $L_0$ , the unstretched length.

$$\Delta = L \sin A = 1.15 L_0 (.49382) = 0.56789L$$

However, there are  $2L_0$  feet of rope available for absorbing shock.

potential energy of  $W$  = energy absorbed by rope

$$0.56789WL_0 = 2 E \cdot L$$

$$0.56789W = 2 E$$

$$W = 2E_W$$

$$\frac{0.56789}{2} = 3.5218 E$$

$W = 140$  lbs. for a  $3/8$ -inch nylon rope

$W = 194$  lbs. for a  $7/16$ -inch nylon rope

$W = 229$  lbs. for a  $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch nylon rope

$W$  is the weight which can be allowed to fall from a point at the center of a horizontal span of a tightly-stretched Tyrolean traverse without grossly exceeding the "working load" of the rope. These weights are much higher than those for the same length of rope in a static belay while catching a ball:

$$\text{for } \Delta = L; \Delta W = EL \\ W = E$$

$$\text{for } \Delta = 2L_0; \Delta W = EL_0 = \frac{1}{2}E\Delta \\ W = \frac{1}{2}E$$

$W = 40$  lbs. for a  $3/8$ -inch nylon rope       $W = 20$  lbs. for a  $3/8$ -inch nylon rope

$W = 55$  lbs. for a  $7/16$ -inch nylon rope       $W = 27.5$  lbs. for a  $7/16$ -inch nylon rope

$W = 65$  lbs. for a  $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch nylon rope       $W = 32.5$  lbs. for a  $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch nylon rope

Even though most nylon climbing ropes will withstand a 170-200 lb. fall with  $\Delta = 2L_0$ , dangerously increased stress will result from such use of the rope. The necessity of a dynamic belay is self-evident!

For a  $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch Manila rope.

$$Ew = 1/3 (530)(.03) = 5.3 \text{ ft-lbs./ft. for } \frac{1}{2}\text{-inch Manila rope.}$$

$$\Delta = L \sin A = 1.03 L_0 (.23966) = 0.24445 L_0$$

$$0.24445 W = 2 E$$

$$W = 8.1816 E$$

$$W = 43 \text{ lbs. for a } \frac{1}{2}\text{-inch Manila rope.}$$

This shows that a "trolley-line" type of belay or safety with nylon is able to hold a fall with, at worst, a slightly increased tension, and has a greatly increased fall-holding capability over a static belay under a fall from the tie-in level. A Manila traverse, although it has a small sag (desirable in some situations, particularly on a long traverse), has a dangerously low shock-absorbing capability.

Dan Meier

#### BLASTING IN FRANKIE'S CAVE

In 1960, a party of cavers checking leads in the Klotz area of Giles County, Virginia, was shown a small pit by a local boy. The cave was completely explored, with the exception of a small opening below the floor of a short passage, visible through a slit. Of particular interest to the party was the movement of air through this hole. A report of this trip is in the club files.

I have wanted to open this lead in Frankie's cave ever since I heard of the possibility of virgin cave there. In April, 1965, Dick Moncure, a geology major and caver, and I visited the cave with the purpose of determining if the hole warranted opening, and if so, what equipment would be necessary.

The cave is located near the intersection of Routes 626 and 635 and above the only prominent sinkhole in the area. The entrance is a horizontal opening,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  feet by 2 feet, at the base of a small sink. Immediately inside the tight entrance, one drops down a slit, and then into a small well. The drop from the entrance to the bottom of the well is about 25 feet. The well

is formed at the intersection of two joints; the entrance slit is at the end of one joint and a short passage blocked at the end by flowstone makes up the other joint. In the flowstone were two holes through which a larger opening could be seen. This was the virgin area.

We entered the cave via cable ladder. The ladder was used to increase our speed coming out. After checking all other possibilities -- and they were few -- we concentrated our attention on the flowstone. Using a heavy hammer, we knocked out enough flowstone to get one's head through for a look around. Beyond the hole was another narrow well about twenty feet high. The floor was sand, but there was an opening at the top of the well.

Since we had enlarged the hole in the flowstone as much as we were able to by hand, we decided to use more drastic methods of rock removal. In the flowstone face was one hole extending partially through, and it was large enough to hold one stick of dynamite. The hole was cleaned out and one stick of 60% dynamite placed in position and tamped with damp clay. The fuse was run through the passage and to the base of the ladder. We allowed ourselves ten minutes to vacate the cave and remove equipment. Igniting the fuse is one of the more exciting moments for those with the blasting passion. When everything was ready, we lit the fuse, pausing briefly as the short flame spat from the fuse and disappeared, leaving a jet of smoke and the hissing of burning powder. Then, with no loss of time, we left the cave, removed the gear and waited for the rumble. It was late at night, and we waited in the deep silence surrounding the mountain, a good time to listen to an explosion. There was a "thud" in the cave, the ground jarred slightly, and it was done.

We returned to the cave a week later to drool over the damage and found much of the flowstone blown away or broken into pieces which could easily be removed. The last few chunks were pushed into the virgin pit, and we climbed in and chimneyed up to the hole at the top. This hole drained the base of a second well, roughly 20 feet by 5 feet by 20 feet high. The top of the well went nowhere, and the joint narrowed down to a few inches beyond the well for as far as one could see. Satisfied with our work, we left the cave for a few thousand years to wait for water and carbon dioxide to work a little more.

The small area we blasted into was virgin. No possibilities remain, unless some energetic caver wishes to remove the sand in the lower well. There is water seepage through the sand. However, the drainage fissure is probably too small to enter. The trend of the cave is toward John Smith's Cave, a double well 130 feet deep with a fairly large room at the bottom. Also in the same area are Johnson's Pit Caves.

The water table above Klotz is deep, and surface drainage is minor. Many joints are exposed in the countryside, exhibiting considerable solutional enlargement, and sinkholes are few. Perhaps these features indicate a sizable cave in the youthful or mature stage. Thus far, so good. But where is the entrance?

Sam Dunaway

submitted for publication; June 30, 1965

FROM THE BOOK, FINK FAIRY TALES COMES STORY # 7, THE MIXED-UP KNIGHT.

Once upon a time, in the mystical Land of Caverns, knights fought with dragons, witches, and evil barons. These knights had formed themselves into different groups similar to King Arthur's Round Table.

But there was one knight who did not venture forth on these dangerous missions. He rescued no fair damsels, nor did he explore and expand the boundaries of the Land of Caverns. Instead, this knight practiced the arts of war and battle, waiting until one of the other knights was trapped, injured, or killed on a mission. He would then ride speedily forth and aid his brother-in-arms.

Lo! and splended was the sight of this gallant warrior. Indeed, his spotless, gleaming armor outshone the very sun. His robe was embroidered with the purest of gold thread, and woven into the very fabric was the noble name of his gallant clan. His steed was larger than most - a truly noble beast. It was as white as newly-fallen snow, with a war cry that struck terror into the hearts of those who heard it. His followers were hardy, loyal warriors; they would arise at his summoning - no matter what the hour - and follow in their leader's path to the place of trouble, where they would carry out various and sundry tasks of labor for their master. Yea, fiercely loyal were these followers; they would turn upon their own kin, should proper homage not be meted out to their beloved knight.

Thus begins our story, in the central area of the Land of Caverns, in a city noted as a once great seaport and now the site of the many persons holding high rank in the numbered hierarchy of the officials of the mystical Land of Caverns.

So it was, that on the third day of the fourth season in the 63rd year of our Founder and King, this knight received a plea for aid through his ethereal communicating device. So urgently was he needed, that forsaking his faithful steed, he went out to the lair of a giant condor.

The knight climbed into the nest of the condor and hid himself in the loose material with his noose of hemp close beside.

Following a wait of many hours, this brave adventurer espied the condor approaching. Fully 100 feet was the wingspread of this monstrous aerial creation. It alighted, and as it did so, the knight slipped the noose around the thick leg of the bird. Yea, as large as a full grown tree, and as rough as bark was this leg.

Tightening the noose, the adventurer at the same time startled the bird, which, frightened further by the unaccustomed weight upon its leg, flew northward, toward its ancestral home.

The bird, after flying for many hours, grew tired and landed, no longer frightened. The knight alighted and removed himself before the bird should recover. After walking a short way, the knight was able to borrow a steed and in good time arrived at the scene of his fellow's plight.

This he was told, that the other had been moved by the tale of a fair maiden, who told of the wonderful treasures contained in a certain untenanted castle. The knight, with two followers, had entered the castle and descended one of the torture pits, but, the castle being under an evil spell, the top of the pit grew narrow and the gallant adventurer could not return. Gathering his equipment about him, the just-arrived rescuer tried many spells, both potent and powerful. These, however, availed him naught, and he was unable to aid the trapped knight. Finally, with the aid of a magician, Nobel by name, he succeeded in destroying the evil castle, so that it would never again trap unwary knights.

The knight then called forth for the wandering balladeers and tellers of tales to gather close around him. These gentle men devote their lives to travel, appearing over all of the Land of Caverns, and bringing news of other areas. They immortalize heroic deeds, shameless braggards, and evil workings with song and word.

Then the knight spoke to these gathered wanderers, and he bade them journey forth with the sad tidings. His eyes shone like lightening as he expressed fear that evil forces would in some way profit by the defeat of the unfortunate knight. This, said the brave rescuer, had been the case when another brave knight had been trapped and killed in the Castle of Crystal, near the Mammoth Castle, in the Land of Karst.

Thus the knight bade farewell to the people of this northern province, and, proceeding to retrace his path, found the giant bird in the same place where he had departed from it. Clinging to the bope, he waited patiently, and the bird, becoming concerned about its nest, flew back to its home. Forsaking the condor, he entered the city, to be greeted joyfully by his merry band.

And there sit they, even unto this very day, awaiting only a plea for help to stir them to action. And, oh, how they dreamily savor the tales of heroic feats that the balladeers sing of their glorious doeds.

Thus, Gentle Reader, ends our story. As to what it has to do with caving, look again at it, and you will see. The Land of Caverns is the eastern United States, the knights are cavers, the dragons and witches are the dangers of caving, and the evil barons are unreasonable landowners. There is, of course, much more symbolism, which we leave to the reader to discern. But, who, some might ask, is the knight who is the main character in our tale? Think on, kind sirs, but if ye be truly puzzled, send 25¢ to: Uncle Gary's Bedtime Stories, Box B-5, Va. Tech Station A, Blacksburg, Va. The answer will be returned in a plain brown envelope.

Gary McCutchen

ATTEND the 16th Annual Ole Timers' Reunion this year - Franklin, West Virginia, Labor Day weekend.

CAVES!

ORGIES!

JERRY NETTLES!

## AROUND THE REGION

For the information of new members and readers, the Virginia Region is a group of the various Washington area Grottos, UVa, VPI, Richmond and Monogahela Grottos, WVACS and various independent cavers from both Virginia and West Virginia. Its purpose seems to be to deal with problems and information in the West Virginia-Virginia caving area and it meets several times a year for discussions, work trips, conservation efforts and socializing. John Cooper serves as chairman; Betty Lloyd is secretary.

At present, the various grottoes are coordinating their efforts on several of the large horizontal systems in Greenbrier County, West Virginia; they are working to establish better landowner relations with the owners of several closed caves; they are working on possible anti-cave vandal legislation in both Virginia and West Virginia; they are working on a Cave Rescue Communication Network for this area and, of course, continue as individuals and grottoes to add to the Virginia Cave Survey.

Through strong individual and grotto participation in the Region, many of the increasing conservation problems of this area can be attacked and better dissemination of information and coordination of surveys may be effected.

The last few months have seen several regional conclaves. The first weekend in May found close to 50 members of the Region in the Greenbrier County, West Va., area for the annual regional project. This year we met at the Greenbrier Hotel in Ronceverte and there split into groups to explore Fullers, Culverson Creek, and McClungs Caves. Three survey parties working on the WVACS survey in McClungs and Lipton's mapped several thousand feet of passage. A few thousand feet were also mapped in Fullers, including a section below the waterfalls - drysuit country.

Bill Mauk, of Richmond, seems to be coordinating the work in that area; subsequent trips have revealed many thousands foot more of passage in Fullers, but the nature of the cave makes it extremely dangerous for the non-drysuit caver.

On July 9-11 the first annual MAR-Va. Region Spéleo Go-Go was held at Aqua Campground, Highland Co., Virginia. The PSC group seemed largest in attendance with other groups from Nittany, Philly, D.C., Richmond, UVa, VPI, Baltimore, Reading and Duke attending.

Don't miss the Old Timers' Labor Day weekend.

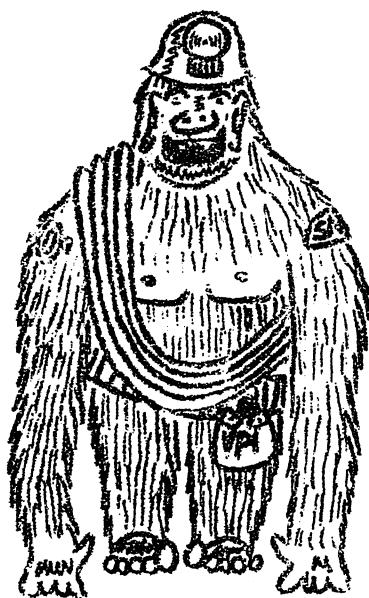
Ed Bauer

"Let us now with whatever levers and steam-engines we have at hand, cant over the sperm whale's head, so that it may lie bottom up; then ascending by a ladder to the summit, have a peep down the mouth; and were it not that the body is now completely separated from it, with a lantern we might descend into the great Kentucky Mammoth Cave of his stomach."

from Moby Dick by Herman Melville  
first published 1851

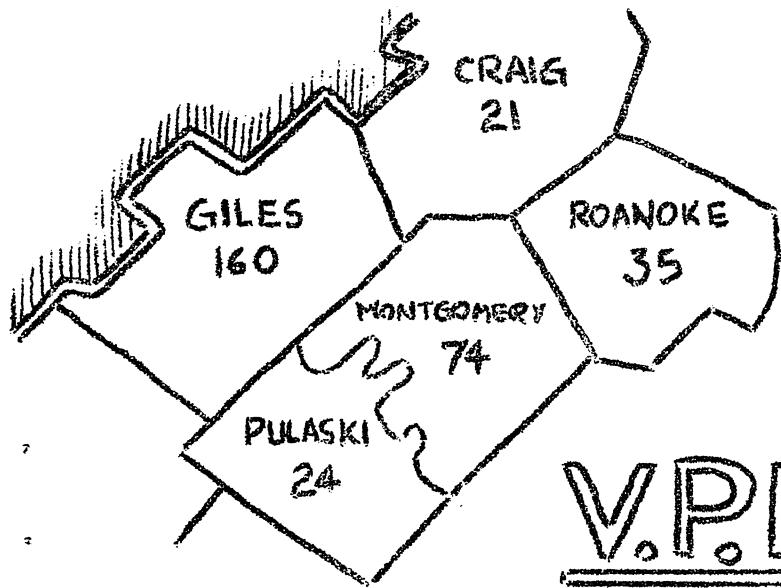
Mark These Dates  
on your Calender:

OCTOBER 9 -



VIRGINIA  
REGION  
MEETING:  
BLACKSBURG

OCTOBER 10 -



CAVING!  
WITH  
THE  
V.P.I. GROTTO

## 1ST ANNUAL VA. REGION-MAR SPELEO GO-GO-GO!

Personnel (from VPI): Ed Bauer, Chris Benowskyj, Charlie Maus, Gary McCutchen, Alan Armstrong, John Peduzzi, Jim Cooper, Gene Harrison, Barry Whittemore, Mike Hamilton, R.E. Whittemore.

Organized by the Virginia Region and planned in detail by Lew Bicking, chairman of the Baltimore Grotto, the Speleo-Go-Go at Aqua Campground in Highland County. The campground is located where the waters of Mill Run, having been spewed forth from Aqua Cave, spill merrily into the Bullpasture River. Being in close proximity to interesting and lengthy subterranean tunnels, this campground is a fine site for such an outing.

Among the noted personalities in attendance at the Go-Go were: The Baltimore Grotto, i.e. Lew Bicking, who whipped in briefly in the early hours of Sunday and returned later at the noon hour; Mason Sproul, without his lawyer's suit, smiling, talkative Bill Karras who, after arrival on Sunday, became the center of a gathering of fans and those merely curious; the well-accomplished explorer and orator, Edward W. Bauer; "Uncle" Gary McCutchen; brilliant writer and adventurer; and the greatest wonder of our time, valient, warm-hearted, sociable EDWARD P. DAY, JR.

Various groups varied in the caves visited (fortunately) - some went photographing in Butler Cave, some went rope-pulling in Cassell's Cave (good sport, old chap). To my knowledge the following caves were visited: Marshall's (twice), Clark's, Butler, Breathing, Aqua, Three Sister's, Cassell's, and Lowmoor Quarry. Enroute to the Go-Go Jim, Gene, Barry, Whitt and I stopped to search for Withero's Cave, located in a wooded glen approximately three miles NE of Millboro Springs on the USGS Williamsville 15' quad. A future trip to Bath Co. will no doubt see us again looking for Withero's. Sometimes you finds them, and sometimes you doesn't.

Not to be outdone, we explored at least two of the Three Sister's, located in a road-cut 300 feet SE of Blowing Cave on Rt. 39 between County Roads 678 and 625. Beyond the conspicuous opening are small caves, for the most part nicely speleothemed with thin soda straws, white flowstone dripping in places to form small thick stalactites, and in one instance, a beautifully-rippled sheet of bacon rind, most of which lies on the floor. The cave furthest east is the largest, boasting a miniature canyon about six feet long, a 20 foot by 30 foot room in the middle of which sits an enormous piece of rock (it's very old) and a bit of maze passage.

We left the caves about 9 and journeyed forth in the fading light of even-tide to the campground where we cooked in the rain, ate in the rain, and socialized in the rain. Actually, socializing was slightly impaired by the rain and the absence of our venerable agitator, John Cooper; and the sociable femme of the Nittany Grotto, Bobbi Nagy. 'Tis said, though, that some stayed awake to watch the sun rise .....

After disentangling various members of the group of Jim, Barry, Gene, Whitt and me from the gathering of Bill Karras, we, plus Pinky Wheatly and the illusive climber Timothy Schoechle, made a short, three-hour trip to Breathing Cave on Sunday. Under the guidance of PSC #125, the group whipped along the predominately parallel passages, noting leads which eventually pinched-out, names of named areas, beautiful speleothems unknown to most people, and therefore not broken and/or stolen, and the conjectured connection to Butler Cave. On the return trip from the waterfall and in the area of the Cup Room, so-named for the cup which once sat on a stalagmite, Speedy Anne and Rapid Whitt disregarded shouted warnings to slow down, resulting in the loss of Barry and Gene who did not know they should whip to the right. Some twenty anxious minutes later, they were rescued by Rapid Whitt and Clean, non-yetdy Tim.

Leaving the cave, we returned to the campground for lunch, packing, and socializing. When we discovered that everyone had left and we could no longer be sociable we left for Blacksburg, home of the WORLD'S MOST ACTIVE CAVING ORGANIZATION. Enroute we saw the parking place for Clark's Cave and the entrance to Crossroads Cave, and obtained some informative data on the non-existent metropolis of McClung, Va.

Anne Braithwaite

#### FIRST ANNUAL SPELEO RESCUE GO-GO

Inspite of the occasional drizzle on Saturday, there was plenty of partying going on at the campground. I had been wondering all night where Lew Bicking was, with such a party going on and all, when who should appear but "fictitious Lew". Lew had decided to drive all the way over from Cassell Cave, Pocahontas Co., West Virginia, to tell us about the progress of his trip in there. Apparently, one member of the caving party, a group from Philly Grotto, had fallen while ascending a climbing pole about 3/4 of a mile back in the cave. He had suffered a head wound. Lew and another member of the party headed for the surface where Lew was to go for help; the other person was to return to the injured caver and the rest of the party with additional equipment.

On reaching the surface, Lew called Bill Karras, of the National Capital Grotto Rescue Squad and Doc Brown and his group from UVa. Lew then drove over to Aqua Campground, about 60 miles, and informed several of us of the problem. Here credit must be given to these sober enough to realize that they were too drunk to go.

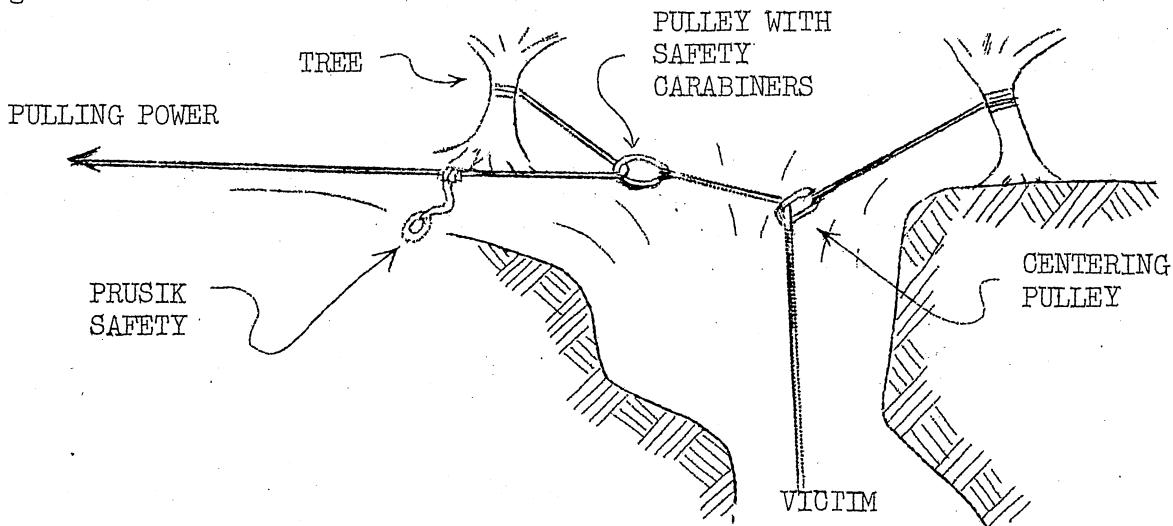
Bill Mauk and Marty Haussy left immediately with Lew, as did John Moore, Tom and Bunny Pierce. John and the Pierces had been involved in a rescue effort at the same cave just several weeks before.

Charlie Maus and I dedicated ourselves to finding a Stokes litter, in case it was needed. We secured one in Hot Springs and brought it up to the entrance of the cave.

When we arrived at the entrance - about 4:30 - we found the local sheriff and a member of the local rescue squad there, along with Bill and Tom, who had rigged the entrance. Doctor Brown, Carter Tallaferrro from UVa, and Marty Haussy returned with Lew Bicking to the injured man within the cave. They would bring him to the bottom of the 100 foot entrance shaft, if possible.

Sometime after 5, we heard shouts from the bottom of the pit and prepared for the lift. Since the patient was conscious and mobile, the litter was not needed, so a parachute harness was lowered to the rescuers below.

At this point, Bill Karras and three of his men arrived from D.C. (It seems that the only way we can get the Regional vice-chairman, Karras, to a Regional function is to bill it as a rescue.) Bill Mauk asked that Karras check the rigging. He approved it and we then substituted several pulleys in place of carabiners. A system as pictured below was used, with a theoretical mechanical advantage of 2:1.



A man was stationed 15 feet below the top of the drop to help those being raised past a breakover. About six people put their weight on the pulling rope and raised Haussy first, as a test victim, and then the other five at the bottom. The victim was taken to a nearby hospital where he was treated and released.

One factor which aided somewhat in the rescue was the fact that although earlier in the night a large volume of water was plunging down the entrance shaft, a negligible amount was going over during the actual ascent to the entrance.

#### Approximate Timetable of Events

Saturday 2:30 - Cavers enter cave.  
8:30 - Accident occurs.  
10:30 - Bicking reaches surface and calls Karras & UVa.

Sunday 12:15 - Bicking notifies group at Aqua Campground.  
2:30 - UVa & Aqua groups arrive at cave.  
5:30 - Karras arrives from D.C.  
7:30 - Last person out of cave.

## REFLECTIONS ON THE 1965 NSS CONVENTION

Once again it was convention time, but this year registration for summer school forced me to stay on the Tech campus until Thursday, June 17th. That evening about 9:30 Charlie Maus and I loaded up his TR-4 with our gear and headed for Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana.

About 8:30 the next morning, under a blazing sun, we arrived at McNutt Quad, the central building. It was decorated with a giant banner welcoming the convention. At first there was so much talk of the Hondo bowling team that we thought perhaps we were in the wrong place. Finally, however, we spotted Bill Cuddington and several others known to us.

Needing a shower and a few hours of sleep, we checked into our very pleasant dormitory rooms and sacked out.

That afternoon, we attended the Practical Session. We were very interested in a new home-made ascending device and in two papers dealing with underground to surface radio transmission for the purpose of communication and location of cave passageways.

After attending the rather quiet Board of Governors meeting and eating dinner, we sat in on a panel discussion on Cave Owner Relationships moderated by Vic Schmidt. This discussion was very interesting, made some good points, and dealt with a dangerous situation.

Later in the evening, the slides entered in the salon and the speleological art entries were shown and all of the photographic awards were presented. Of particular interest were slides of caves in Australia that showed the beauty and immensity of the caverns "down under".

Of course, that night there was the nightly party at the campground.

Saturday morning dawned all too bright and early and we were off to the general and conservation session. Interesting papers dealt with the progress of cave gating in the United States, a discussion of the relationship between the NSS and the National Park Service, and a study by a group from Cave Research in the Flint Ridge System on the use of cane torches as illumination.

A fitting finale to this morning session was a preview of the '66 Convention to be held in Sequoia Park, California. Dave McClurg clued us in and it sounds like another good one.

After a vertical cavers luncheon (was that blonde really a vertical caver?) at which a forthcoming pamphlet on vertical caving techniques by the Huntsville Grotto was discussed, Charlie and I got together with Tommy Tucker, his three-legged dog, and several others and headed for nearby Salamander Cave.

After caving, we refreshed ourselves in a tremendous swimminghole at a nearby quarry. We then went back to the dorm to get ready for the banquet.

The annual banquet is always a wonderful culmination to the convention and this was no exception. After a delicious roast beef dinner, the new members to the board were announced. Tom Barr, the new president, said a few words and door prizes were awarded. Gregg Marland, a former president of the VPI Student Grotto, was awarded a research grant of \$250 for his work on manganese deposits in caves.

Roy Davis, the master of ceremonies, did an excellent job and entertained us all with his adventures of the commercial cave owner.

Brother Nicholas capped the evening with a wonderful, illustrated talk on caves in various Pacific countries and islands which he has visited. Following the banquet, of course, were the usual parties, both at the campground and in the dorm.

Of noteworthy interest:

The living, eating, camping, and meeting facilities were excellent - very, very reasonable accommodations for those in the dorms; good food; a campground within walking distance of the sessions hall; and the meeting halls spacious and air-conditioned.

The convention was very well-planned, events took place when they were supposed to, a good, close relationship was maintained with the university.

The arrangements for "socializing" were far better than many had been led to believe, and this convention proved that a group of our nature can conduct itself properly in such circumstances.

Preview of next year's convention, celebrating the Society's 25th anniversary, indicated that it will be terrific. Let's have a better representation from VPI.

Ed Bauer

Submitted for publication July 6, 1965.

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Having trouble getting controversial material published? Send it to us. If we reject it, you can always tell the next guy, "I've been turned down by the better journals."

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Whitt:

I enclose \$3.00 to keep myself on the Troglodyte rolls.

Enjoyed the last issue - spring 1965.

Your "big cave" list is something that needed to be done. It really shows how poorly some of these "well-known" caves are actually known. A couple of comments. First, I hope you hear from Holsinger. Some of his stuff in southwest Virginia tops a mile. Douglas lists Cudjo's (Lee County) as a mile and I believe Unthank is the one Holsinger has run well on up. One I'm wondering about is Beacon, I've never really figured out whether it's in Virginia or West Virginia, but it's within a half mile or so of the line (probably in West Virginia) and looks on the map like just over a mile. I tried for a year to get some of you guys down to Buchanan Saltpeter with me. I've been in it twice and not seen an end. I can't guarantee two and a half miles, but it's a mighty big (and nice) cave.

Glad to see also, the sentiment on belayed rappels. I've always maintained that the only use for a prusik is when you are unsure that the rappel rope is of sufficient length to reach down and that it is generally more of a hazard than a safety device. An over-head belay does have a place, certainly, on all ladder climbs and on novices with few exceptions (first or second rappel). After that, give the rope a good test and then rely on it.

Pretty good issue overall.

Your pal,  
Gregg

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Robert;

A few comments on your "Virginia's Biggest Caves" article in the Spring issue of the Trogloodyte. Most of the following is up-to-date from the Virginia Cave Survey files. Annotations where necessary.

- 1) Butler Cave - no comment. Who is plotting the recent surveying rumored to be going on there?
- 2) Breathing Cave - About four miles is all, I imagine. Penn State map is accurate.
- 3) Newberry-Bane Cave - I've seen two miles. Get Thierry's survey notes and you might clear this one up. Else you'll have to go on the present map and rumors.

- 4) Gilley's Cave - One of the biggest in the state -- there's no doubt. U.Va. Grotto runs trips there. They should be able to bring you up to date.
- 5) Miller's Cove Cave - A good map will tell the tale. I'm tired of hearing stories about this cave -- lets get the facts. I've seen less than one mile but only saw one of the main sections.
- 6) Buchanan Saltpeter Cave - If there is 2.5 miles there, I'll be surprised. Gregg Marland made a special trip there last year to see where the stream passage went. Ask him. That will about tell the story.
- 7) Crossroads Cave - Two miles is accurate.
- 8) Luray Cavers - A tricky cave to get a fair size of. If we are talking of linear distance, however, and I assume we are, then the large map (the one from which the book reduction was made) shows about 3,500 ft. Sorry, but this one comes off the list. It's big, but not long.
- 9) Porters Cave - I have personally mapped 8,500 ft. and to my knowledge that includes everything.
- 10) Clarks Cave - See my revised map in Caves of Virginia. This should show roughly two miles, certainly not less than 8,000 ft. There is probably more, but not much to write home about.
- 11) Endless Caverns - Here's where I will put a drastic end to a "hell-of-a" big myth. Bob Blackburn and I have sketch mapped about 1 mile and this includes everything but one dubious lead.
- 12) New River Cave - This one's in your territory.
- 13) Stonley's Cave - You'll have to rely on the map unless somebody finds more cave. I've seen about 3,000 ft. but got tired of wet crawls.
- 14) Clover Hollow Cave - Another one in your territory. I'd say a good mile.
- 15) Here are some more for your list ---

Flannerys Cave, Scott Co. (Glenchport Quad) -- See Fannery Cave in Caves of Virginia. We mapped it Thanksgiving weekend. The map (in files) shows an even 5,000 ft. A wet crawl will make it a mile.

Unthanks Cave, Lee Co. (Sneedville Quad) -- See Caves of Virginia for preliminary write-up by me. After I found the cave, Lee Skinner (then of Bristol) sketched about 8000 ft. and Henry Douglas last the map. Since then, Hugh Thomas (who will not correspond with me) is supposed to have extended it a great deal (information through Don Finley, who is a reliable source). It is a good 2 miles and probably more. Someday I'll get a chance to look at Thomas' map.

Here are some possibilities -----

Withero's Cave (Bath Co.) - The map shows over 0.5 miles but more is supposed to exist. I've only seen about 2,000 feet but didn't check nearly all leads. It's a maze cave.

Fugate-Young Cave, Lee Co. (see book) - A potential mile or more. I'm going to map it in August so then we'll know for sure.

Surgener-Gallohan Cave System, Lee Co. - I'll have pertinent details by end of August. Another one we are going to finish up this summer. As it now stands it is getting close to a mile.

All of the above, except Luray, which does not belong on the "Miler" list, qualify, excepting the last three (above) which need further work. I'll bring you up-to-date on the last two at end of summer (or by Va. Region meeting time). Your Grotto can check out Withero's.

My numbering system is not how I rate these by size. I'll let you do that after you compile all the necessary data.

Hope to see you in October at the Virginia Region Meeting.

Best regards,  
/s/ John R. Holsinger

CAVES OF ALABAMA will soon be available. Price, \$3.50. Make checks payable to W. W. Varnadoe, Jr., and send to Rt. 4, Box 1811, Huntsville, Alabama, 35803

ANNUAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS  
1964 EDITION  
PRESENTED BY THE AWARDS COMMITTEE  
TO THE  
MEMBERS OF THE VPI CAVE CLUB

Joseph Overman Award for Outstanding Trip Reports...

R. E. Whittemore (For his great report of the New Year's party at the Fieldhouse)

Gregg H. Marland Award for Leadership...

Ed Bauer (For getting trapped in Staircase-Crookshank System on a trip which he arranged)

George Fairer Award for Song Fest Leading...

Ed Brown (For his excellent lead in passing out at a song fest--a new first)

Wayne Schooley Award for Most Spastic Member of a Trip...

Dick Hughes (For backing into an eight-foot fall in Butler's Cave last spring.)

John Holzinger Award for Vertical Caving...

Addison Wilkens (For his harrowing trip to 3D Maze during the Virginia Region Meeting)

Most Dedicated Caver Award...

R. E. Whittemore (For his attempt at siphon-diving in Miller's Cove)

Roger T. Eubank Award for Orthopedic Injuries...

Not Awarded This Year (However, this award was almost present to Rick Nolting for caving sans hard hat)

Wayne Elliot Sex Award...

Rick Nolting (For his activities promoting the men of the VPI Cave Club--and himself--at the New Year's party at the Fieldhouse)

Fearless Journalism Award (Yellow Journalism Award)...

Gary McCutchen and R. E. Whittemore (For certain scandalous statements in the WTR 1965 edition of the Tech Trogolodyte)

Ed Day Driving Award...

Mike Bohn (For flying his VW on the way out to a song fest at Bob Robins' house last fall)

Ed Bauer (For driving his VW partially off the bridge in front of Old Mill cave last fall)

But Most Of All To

J. Craig Peters (For writing the book The Fine Points of Rolling a Corvair after first gaining practical experience with his roommate's Corvair last Easter)

Floyd Collins Award for Tight Crawlways...

Gary McCutchen (For going caving--all crawlways are tight to him)

Fink of the Year Award...

Roger T. Eubank (For getting married last summer, for not inviting the entire VPI Cave Club and offering to pay their expenses for the trip, and for not even telling anybody)

The Awards Committee is also happy to announce that several cavers have qualified for Hero Medals and many Guano Clusters have been awarded. Note: Rock climbers do not qualify for Guano Clusters. The Lead Piton Award has been created for their Hero Medals. Members are reminded that clusters may be revoked for offending the Awards Committee.

The Awards Committee  
VPI Cave Club  
J. Craig Peters, Chairman

## TRAIL OF THE LONESOME PINE REVISITED

During the month of February, only one visit was made into the rich caving area of southwestern Virginia. No spectacular discoveries were made; however, a number of possibilities were eliminated. The caves reported herein are located in Thompson Valley, several miles south of Tazewell, Virginia, near the "outhouse". Explorations were made by McCutchen, Helbert, Hoyle, Gerling, and Whittemore. Here is a brief report on the caves visited.

Gillespie's Cliff Caves Tazewell County, Va., ( $37^{\circ}02'45''$  x  $81^{\circ}39'20''$ ) Elev. 2360 Pounding Mill Quad. All three caves are in a cliff above a resurgence and can be seen from the road. They are on the east side, opposite a white house, about 1 mile south of Liberty. The opening nearest the road gives access to an 80-foot crawlway. The large entrance above the spring is nothing more than a shelter with a small upper level. A small cave between these two caves is open at both ends and parallels the cliff face.

Puckett's Cave Tazewell County, Va., ( $37^{\circ}03'15''$  x  $81^{\circ}35'19''$ ) Elev. 2800 Pounding Mill Quad. A small cave in a large sinkhole three miles SW of route 16 and half a mile NE of Puckett's house. Total length of passage is less than 100 feet. Another FRO.

Cove School Cave #1 Tazewell County, Va., ( $37^{\circ}01'27''$  x  $81^{\circ}40'46''$ ) Elev. 2400 Pounding Mill Quad. About 100 yards west of route 91 is a large sinkhole. A trapezoidal opening in the vertical north side has a stream flowing out of it. The stream sinks within 100 feet. The passage is six to eight feet high and wide and extends upstream about 700 feet, curving to the left. Near the end are deep pools and duckunders, and a final siphon. There are a few formations along the passage. Near the entrance is a concrete dam forming a pool from which water is pumped.

Thompson's Cave #2 Tazewell County, Va., (SW 6/8/3) Pounding Mill Quad. No enterable caves were found in this area which is characterized by numerous small sinks in an open field. One of the larger sinks has been filled in with fence rolls and other debris.

R. E. Whittemore

submitted for publication; February 22, 1965

Below is a list of names and phone numbers of persons in the Blacksburg vicinity who may be contacted in the event of a cave accident. This is to aid the CAVE RESCUE NETWORK in keeping the list up to date. The first two phone numbers will become obsolete September 1.

Ed Bauer	PR2-3783
R. E. Whittemore	PR2-9882
Gary McCutchen	PR2-8459
Charles Maus	PR2-9264

## COMMENTS ON TAZEWELL COUNTY REPORT FROM JOHN HOLSINGER:

"Cove School #1 cave is probably the same as Gillespie Water Cave #1 (see report by Thierry in Caves of Va.). Your location is different, however, from the one reported. This area is, however, still in a state of confusion."

## CAVES OF GILES COUNTY

The Volume, Caves of Virginia, a monumental collection of data on Virginia's caves, edited by Henry Douglas, contains complete information available to the Virginia Cave Survey through July, 1962. As noted by Mr. Douglas, the book is only as good as the reports that have been submitted and this varies considerably from cave to cave and from area to area. The book is the first of its kind in Virginia and should serve as a stimulus to obtain more information and to update and correct that which appears in the original manuscript. The best way that this can be accomplished is for individuals to attack specific areas of easy access, special interest, and/or close familiarity, with the objective of making data on that area as complete and accurate as possible. It was on this premise that work was begun during the summer of 1963 to update information on Giles County, an area of numerous caves and considerable confusion.

The information below should be considered supplemental to Mr Douglas' book and hopefully will be incorporated into new editions, should they appear. Some of the information is from the VPI Cave Club files -- especially some of that on caves listed as for the record only -- but the majority of it is the result of personal investigations. All caves in the parts of Giles County covered by the Radford and Pearisburg topographic maps are listed. Information about these caves is given only if it is to correct or add to that given in Caves of Virginia. Caves investigated and found essentially as shown in Douglas' book are noted "o.k." Caves which were not visited but seemed, from the information given and personal contacts, to be adequately located and described are noted as "apparently o.k." Caves for which this is believed to be the first filed account are noted by asterisks. Where possible, brief notes are given on caves listed as for the record only with the belief that, if no other purpose is served, this will at least aid in preventing duplicate reports (e.g. under different names) of a single cave.

It is unfortunate that the Giles County work was not completed before I left the state, but it is hoped that some other investigators will complete the survey and investigate the few questions noted as remaining on these two quadrangles. Those that should especially be checked are Brown's #1 and #2, Hog Hole, and Echo's.

Sketch maps, which are available in the VPI Grotto files or my personal files (besides those previously published, see Douglas, p. 707-708), are noted here but not printed, largely because in most instances it is not known to whom to attribute the credit -- or blame.

My wife Bonnie and Read Predmore are to be thanked for repeated and conscientious assistance in checking many caves, mostly of an undramatic character.

Radford Quadrangle (14 definite caves)

NW:

Harris: o.k.

Johnson (Big Walker Creek #8): Latitude 37-14-32  
Longitude 80-42-30

Half way up hill on E. side of Rt. 100, approximately 60' above the road. Slopes down along the dip (about 45°) to water level which is about road level. 200' long, 60' deep. 300' north of Rt. 100 bridge at Staffordsville.

(Radford Quad. p.2)

Parsell's: apparently o.k., not visited.

\* Cave Spring: Latitude 37-12-09  
 Longitude 80-44-18  
 30' long stoopway at creek's edge.

## Big Walker Creek Caves (7)

- #1 Latitude 37-14-30      Longitude 80-42-28  
     40' long, 12' deep; 150' N. of Rt. 100 bridge at Staffordsville.  
     10' above road, some flowstone.
- #2 Latitude 37-14-26      Longitude 80-42-27  
     12' long, 8' S. of road at Rts. 100-730 intersection.
- #3 Latitude 37-14-25      Longitude 80-42-26  
     35' long tunnel, one entrance 20' x 15'.  
     50 yards upstream from bridge.
- #4 Latitude 37-14-24      Longitude 80-42-26  
     50 yards S. of #3, entrance 7' x 4', 50' long slit tapering  
     to nothing.
- #5 Latitude 37-14-23      Longitude 80-42-25  
     30 yards S. of #4, 2' x 2' entrance, 8' long
- #6 Latitude 37-14-22      Longitude 80-42-25  
     30 yards S. of #5, 13' long.
- #7 Latitude 37-14-28      Longitude 80-42-26  
     N. bank of Rt. 730 just before it meets Rt. 100.  
     25' long; tight.

Poplar Hill Shelter: An extensive search revealed no information.  
 Probably a cliff overhang along Walker Creek. Should be considered  
 "no cave" unless further information can be obtained.

\* There are a number, at least 3, of additional caves, all quite small,  
 along the southeast side of Walker Creek and Wabash Creek between  
 Staffordsville and Harris Cave.

Maps of Giles County caves (not listed by Douglas p.707-708)

Harris: sketch

Hoot Owl: G.H.M., sketch, 4/26/64.

Will Johnson's #1

Daisy Williams: sketch

Wire Hole: sketch

Pearisburg Quadrangle (119 definite caves)

WC:

Cleypool's (Morris): Latitude 37-20-35      Longitude 80-42-20  
 Near Pearisburg City Dump. Owned by Mr. Morris

Curve Saltpeter: Entrance 50' above N&amp;W tracks.

Dead Horse: See King's

(Pearisburg Quad. WC cont. p.2)

Klotz: a.k.

Cliff #21: 8' x 12' entrance, 150' above tracks. 8' long.

Cliff #22: 2' x 2½' entrance, 130' long, 0' deep.

Comally's: 20' long.

King's (Dead Horse): Latitude 37-21-05 Longitude 80-42-53  
Owned by Wallace King. See description of Dead Horse Cave.

Pearisburg Railroad: 30' long

Phlegar's (Spectator's): Latitude 37-20-23 Longitude 80-40-03

Owned by G. C. Phlegar. Reported to be 300' long.

Report of 5/21/60 by Brumbeck calls the cave Spectator's, says it is quite attractive, may be 1000' long, is entered through roots and clay. Visited 6/64. Unstable roots and clay, opening visible beyond large obstructing boulder, 2 bats seen emerging. Could not penetrate beyond 25'.

Pyrtles: One large 60' x 60' room bisected by a large boulder.  
Entrance 3' x 15', 70' long.

Virginian Cliff #1: Horizontal slit in cliff, 25' wide, 9' high, 75' long.

Virginian Cliff #2: 100' long, dangerous rotten rock.

Virginian Cliff #3: 3 entrances, 300 feet long.

Hoot Owl -- see Giles County, Central.

C:

Dry Branch: (probably John Smith's)

John Smith's: Latitude 37-20-09 Longitude 80-39-40

Coordinates may be slightly off, probably very close. Description o.

Hoot Owl: Latitude 37-22-44 Longitude 80-39-43  
400' S. of Gypsum Co. driveway. Entrance 12' x 12'  
750' long, 100' deep. Sketched 4/26/64

\* Frankie's: Latitude 37-20-08 Longitude 80-39-51  
Narrow slit, 27' drop, 30' long  
(Editor's Note: See page 110 of this issue)

\* Johnny's: Latitude 37-20-09 Longitude 80-39-46  
25' deep x 50' long fissure in field, no leads.

\* Almosta #1 Latitude 37-20-09 Longitude 80-39-46  
One small room.

\* Gutter: Latitude 37-20-41 Longitude 80-39-01  
Small hole immediately beside Rt. 626 in Moccasin Formation.  
Contained numerous tin cans and one dead cow; 6/64. Can see in for about 15'. May be Dry Branch Cave, although Dry Branch is probably as indicated above.

(Pearisburg Quad. p.3)

SW:

Ballards: o.k.  
 Bluff City Saltpeter #1: Apparently Bluff City #1.  
 Bluff City Saltpeter #2: Apparently Bluff City #2.  
 Brown #1: o.k., should be checked.  
 Brown #2: o.k., should be checked.  
 Stafford's: Not checked.  
 Wood's #1: Not checked.  
 Wood's #2: Not checked.  
 Bluff City #1: Apparently o.k.  
 Bluff City #2: Apparently o.k.  
 Mrs. Link's #1: 55' long.  
 Mrs. Link's #2: 200' S. of #1. 68' long.  
 Webb Mason's #1: Apparently o.k.  
 Webb Mason's #2: Apparently o.k.  
 Carl Pack's: 120' long, 60' deep, muddy.  
 Dewey Reynold's #1: 10' Long.  
 Dewey Reynold's #2: 10' x 12' entrance, 40' long.

Graham Stafford's: Latitude 37-18-07 Longitude 80-42-49  
 30' Long.

Meadie Tabor's Water: Slopes 8' down to a 6' x 10' pool.  
 RippTemead Cliff: Not checked.

\* Read's: Latitude 37-19-56 Longitude 80-40-29  
 Small hole beside Rt. 635 at .15 miles from Rt. 460.  
 40' crawl to room 10' x 10' x 2½' high.

SC:

Will Johnson's #1: Latitude 37-19-49 Longitude 80-38-55  
 200 yards SE of Johnson home.

Will Johnson's #2: Latitude 37-19-53 Longitude 80-39-21  
 (more information forthcoming.)

Kanode's Pit: Apparently o.k.

Mill Creek Head: Error, should be placed on Waiteville Quadrangle,  
 Montgomery County.

New River: o.k.

New River Extension: No indication of a cave in area -- 6/64.

School: Apparently o.k.

Straley's #1: o.k.

Straley's #2: o.k.

Straley's #3: Latitude 37-15-36 Longitude 80-38-55  
 Single passage leading to a 40' high room, 100' long.

Wire Hole: Latitude 37-15-54 Longitude 80-36-26

(Pearisburg Quad., SC cont. p.4)

Cliff Caves:

- #0 No information. (?)
- #1 3 entrances, 40' above river, 80' long, 30' deep.
- #2 200' up cliff. 0' long, 40' deep.
- #3 U-shaped tunnel with 2 entrances, 40' long.
- #4 Locked N&W storehouse, 2 entrances, 150' long, 20' deep.
- #5 10' long.
- #6 10' long.
- #7 15' long; 10' deep.
- #8 16' long, 100' up cliff.
- #9 10' long.
- #10 5' x 8' entrance, 50' long.
- #11 Few feet.
- #12 Few feet.
- #13 Few feet.
- #14 Few feet.
- #15 25' long.
- #16 40' long.
- #17 20' long.
- #18 20' long.
- #19 20' long.
- #20 8' x 8' entrance in 100' face -- not entered.

Devil's Den: 30' long, 6' deep.

Eggleston Railroad: 150' above RR, 35' long. Few dead formations, no leads.

Niagara Hole: 25' deep fissure, no passage.

Pembroke Railroad #1: 2 entrances, 1 room, 25' long, 25' deep.

Pembroke Railroad #2: 40' x 12' entrance, several branching passages, 150' long, 80' deep; helictites.

Rat: Although neither Rat nor New River Extension were found, it was felt that they are probably 2 different holes.

Smith: To be distinguished from John Smith's -- only a short distance away. Has been filled in for several years.

Snider's: Wooden door, crawl passage 70' long.

Louie Straley's: Owner R.R. Scott. 50' long, 20' deep.

Benton William's #1: 60' long, 20' deep.

Benton William's #2: 40' long, 0' deep; crawl.

Benton William's #3: Large entrance to single room. Storehouse for railroad supplies. 25' long.

Daisy William's #1: Latitude 37-15-56 Longitude 80-35-12  
Interlocking crawlways. 200' long, 40' deep.

Daisy William's #2: Latitude 37-15-56 Longitude 80-35-12  
30' long, 15' deep.

Jake William's: 6' long, 6' deep.

(Pearisburg Quad., SC cont. p.5)

- \* Tunnel: Latitude 37-17-27 Longitude 80-37-04  
50' above tracks, one 30' x 50' room, 60' long, 20' deep.
- \* Muddy Fissure: Latitude 37-17-23 Longitude 80-36-10  
30' drop into a muddy, breakdown-cluttered fissure 200' long, 70' deep, averages 5' wide.
- \* Wander-where this-road-goes Caves (3):
  - #1 Latitude 37-16-46 Longitude 80-36-52  
4 entrances, 50' long.
  - #2 Latitude 37-16-46 Longitude 80-36-52  
15' crawlway.
  - #3 Latitude 37-16-46 Longitude 80-36-52  
15' x 10' x 4' high room.
- \* Sam's: Latitude 37-19-13 Longitude 80-37-33  
Along side of Rt. 460. 15' deep, 40' long.

SE:

Mike Breen's: Not checked.

Dell: Assuming that the longitude is a typographical error and should read 80-30-32, which is likely, the cave could not be located.

EchoT's: 50 yards E. of Rt. 607, 50' long (?) -- should be checked.

Hog Hole: Could not be found. Should be checked.

Hoge's: Apparently o.k.

Key Ridge #1: Not checked; apparently o.k.

Key Ridge #2: Not checked, apparently o.k.

Link's: o.k.

Pig Hole: o.k.

Quartermann's: Not found, may be W. F. William's Cave.

Smoke Hole: o.k.

Spruce Run Mountain: o.k.

Tawney's: o.k.

Unnamed: It is believed that this cave, the unnamed cave listed as "D" on page 235, Douglas, (under South Central 1/9), and a cave listed as Cat Trap in the VPI files are the same cave, which is, according to a local hunter, "about big enough to put your foot in."

Andrew's: Single narrow passage 40' long, 10' deep.

Arthur Dowdy's #1: 12' deep, 0' long.

Arthur Dowdy's #2: 20' deep, 0' long.

Hoge Brother's: There are a number of small holes between this location and the bridge over Sinking Creek on Rt. 625. All are very small openings in the bluffs along the Sinking Creek stream bed.  
(estimated 8 but should be checked.)

(Pearisburg Quad., SE cont. p.6)

Claude Link's #1: 60' long, 10' deep, narrow passage which drops off in a slit.

Claude Link's #2: 15' long, 6' deep.

Maybrook Sinkhole Caves (5):

- #1 20' long; 10' deep.
- #2 35' long; 0' deep.
- #3 15' long; 0' deep.
- #4 20' long; 10' deep.
- #5 10' long, 0' deep.

Jim Miller's: Short passage after small drop.

Porterfield's: Cleft in rock, 8' long, 10' deep.

Burke Rowland's: Receives a small stream. 30' long, 10' deep.

Homer William's: Used as a springhouse. 100' long, 35' deep.

Isaac William's: 20' long, 25' deep.

W. F. William's: 50' long, 0' deep.

Rocky Sink School: Latitude 37-19-57      Longitude 80-31-07  
20' crawlway.

#### OTHERS:

Pearisburg-Narrow Slits: Probably Bluff City #1 and #2.

Tower Field: Probably Dulaney's Cave, Narrows Quadrangle.

There is reportedly a cave on the Taylor Farm on the Doe Creek Road.

There is a cave in the cliff above the Foote Mineral Co. at Kimbalton which is visible from the road.

There is a cave in the working face of the U. S. Gypsum Co. at Kimbalton.

Gregg Marland

submitted for publication, July 19, 1965

#### GILES COUNTY NOTES

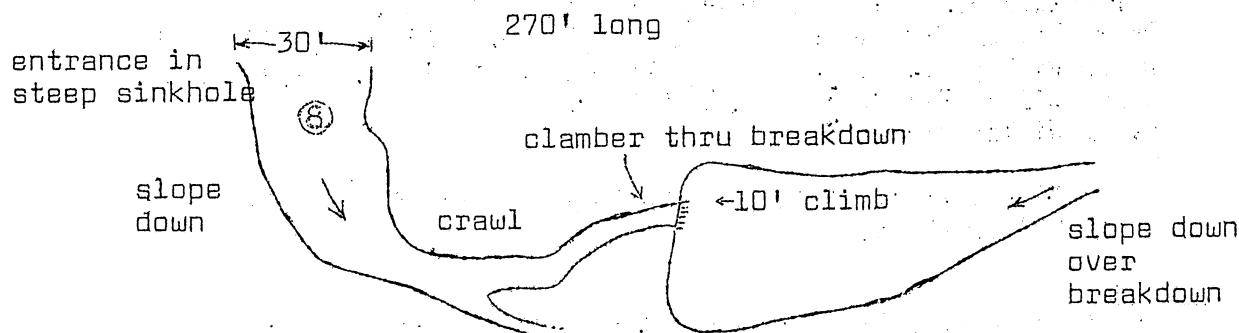
While reviewing my files in preparation of the supplement on Giles County caves (pages 125-131 of this issue), I encountered notes of other random investigations which may be of interest.

Sinking Creek, Giles County, Va. (7/14/63). The creek disappears into a rubble pile at the base of a 35 foot limestone cliff almost immediately across Rt. 460 from Maybrook Sinkhole. The streambed is dry from this point to the New River, over 2 miles away, but is reportedly filled during wet seasons when the total volume of the stream cannot be handled by the subsurface channel. Two large springs were visited along the east side of the New River. One is approximately  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile north of where the Sinking Creek dry bed meets the river. It was once dammed for an unknown reason, but the dam has now been broken through.

The other spring is one-fourth mile north of the railroad crossing at Eggleston at the base of a high dolomite cliff. To my knowledge, no investigation has been made of the underground course of Sinking Creek, but it seems likely that the first of the above mentioned springs represents the resurgence and that the stream flows essentially through the alluvium below its surface channel.

Tawney's Cave, Giles County, Va. (6/30/63). Less than one ounce of fluorescein was placed in the cave stream at the bottom of the formation room. Visible green coloration was noted at the spring along Sinking Creek (about 250 straight-line feet away) eight minutes later and persisted for eight minutes. This was a simple experiment by a fellow who had never played with fluorescein before.

Walk Through Cave, Craig County, Virginia. (8/1/64)



Rufe Caldwell's Cave, Craig County, Va. Now owned by Mr. Zanny Reynolds.

Madame Russell Cave, Smyth County, Va. Known locally as Harmon's Cave.

Gregg Marland

Submitted for publication July 19, 1965

Gregg Marland -- Recipient of 1965 Research Grant

"The Origin of Manganese and Iron Minerals in Limestone Caves" is the topic of a study which won Gregg Marland the 1965 National Speleological Society Research Grant of \$250. This award is made annually to a student writing a graduate thesis on a speleological subject. Mr. Marland is a student in the Department of Earth Sciences, Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri. His research will include analysis of the chemical composition and mineralogy of the deposits, determination of the source and characteristics during different seasons of the depositing water, and evaluation from thermochemical data as to whether or not the deposition occurs within the stability fields of the minerals at equilibrium.

Reprinted from the NSS NEWS: Volume 23, No. 6, June 1965, page 87.

## TRIP REPORTS

CHAMBERS CAVE

5/1/65

by Carole Noble

Personnel: Dick Hughes, Mike Youso.

Chambers Cave is located at the end of an enormous ponor sinkhole which extends one mile along Peter's Mountain. A stream flows into the entrance and ranges from dry in summer to wet in winter.

The entrance is a rocky crawl into the cave for about 50 feet. The cave itself is relatively unexplored and has never been surveyed. It consists of two levels: the upper level, which branches off and up from the steam passage, and the lower level.

The upper level can be reached from several spots on the lower level, and once in this level, sinks which go down to the lower level are encountered. On the lower level, near the end of the cave, there is a crawl of one hundred feet which leads to the Ship Room. This room is over 100 feet high. From here, an upper passage leads to some musical formations.

Chambers is a large cave which has several unexplored portions beyond the stream and on the upper level. There are some nice formation, including a rather large one called the Coliseum. This cave is wet at times, but normally is moderately dry.

Opinion: It is worth the trip!

...ooo000ooo...

MILLER'S COVE CAVE

4/17/65

by R. E. Whittemore

Personnel: Steve Garber

Our original intent was to survey a large side passage off the upper stream level, but lack or proper equipment caused us to change our plans.

The road proved to be too muddy, so we took the one-mile hike up to the cave. Upon reaching the entrance, we were disgusted to see that someone had placed a large manila rope as a permanent texture in the entrance. Also, a wooden ladder, elaborately constructed in four sections, had been placed at the first drop. Closer inspection of the upper levels revealed a definite increase in vandalism, now that the cave is more accessible.

Steve and I had decided to explore the "dynamite passage," which forms the upstream end of the lower stream level. We explored as far as the point where the stream enters the passage, then returned to the top of the first waterfall where the stream plunges down to the 500-foot level. Having no ropes, we were unable to explore that section of the cave. Instead, we chimneyed out, to the belay loft for a better look at the waterfall, then took a crawlway back into the grand chasm.

At the bottom of the grand chasm drop, there is another 20-foot pit. From here, it is possible to rappel from the lower stream level down to the upper stream level, so we descended to the upper stream level and explored a short distance up the upstream passage, then we turned downstream and traversed as far as the sand room. Beyond here, the crawlways were partially filled with water. We then returned from the downstream end of the upper stream level and ascended to the Ante Room by way of Schell's Crossing.

We continued up the various small drops and through the tedious crawlways, passing ropes and camera equipment along as we went. We made our way to the surface and returned to Blacksburg in time to catch the late show at Books, Strings and Things.

...ooo000ooo...

SALAMANDER CAVE

6 19/65

by Charlie Maus

Personnel: Ed Bauer and others

How to Beat Yourself to Death  
or  
Caving at the National Convention

"What shall we do this afternoon, catch up on our sleep or go caving?" Ed Bauer asked me at the Saturday vertical cavers' luncheon. Since we had had four hours of sleep during the previous fifty-two hours, the question was ridiculous; we'd go caving.

One hour later, after getting lost once and confused twice (typical of Bauer's navigational abilities), we arrived at Salamander Cave. At the cave's parking lot, we met four other cavers and with them formed a corps for our adventure.

After attiring ourselves in spiked boots, clothes with tear-proof pockets, hard hats with lights and other caving paraphernalia, we started down the ravine toward the cave. On approaching the cave, we met a group of boys and girls (ages ten to twelve) wearing cloth hats and carrying flashlights. They had just left Salamander and were looking for Grotto Cave.

To digress no further, Salamander is a very pleasurable cave to go through. Passing through an entrance 15 feet wide and three feet high, you proceed for approximately 75 feet and then drop through a small opening into a narrow stream passage. This passage maintains its seven-by-ten-foot characteristics for approximately 400 feet and then opens into the "Mountain Room". This room has an impressive high mud bank on which rests a large "break-down" mountain. Leading out of the Mountain Room are two passages, one of which bears southeast, is approximately 30 by 40 feet, and ends after a couple hundred feet. The other bears northeast and is very wide, smooth and high. Both are stream passages.

The latter-mentioned passage "y's" and then joins itself beyond the "Flat Room," which is a medium-sized place, and, true to its name, flat.

Beyond the Flat Room, a small amount of break-down is encountered and then the passage continues with a nice smooth floor and 25 foot dimensions. These features continue until a break-down fill is encountered.

Our trip ended here, since the break-down has a reputation for being "rotten". On the way back to the Flat Room, we made a stop to take some photographs of the excellent helectities and some stalacti-flat arrays.

It was an excellent trip and we found it hard to believe that we had seen some 4000 feet of cave in such a short time.

Don't forget - summer cavers who appropriated club carbide will be required to pay 75¢ summer dues. This will, of course, entitle you to a copy of the summer Tech Troglodyte.

\*\*\*\*\*

Plan now to attend the next Virginia Region Meeting to be held in Blacksburg October 9-10. VPI will be the host Grotto, so it's bound to be a successful event.

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