

# THE TECH TROGLODYTE

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

ADDRESS:

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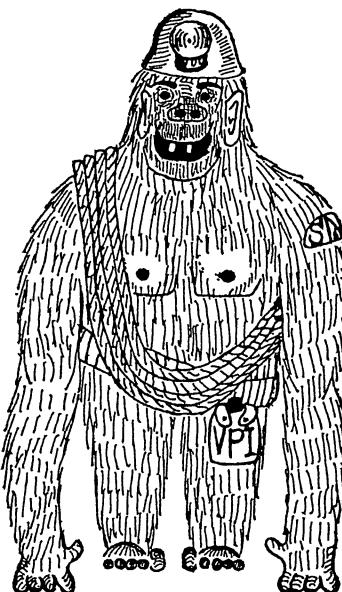
VOL. IV, No. 3

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SPRING QUARTER, 1966

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## ATTENTION EDITORS OF EXCHANGE PUBLICATIONS:

Please note CHANGE OF ADDRESS ON COVER OF THIS ISSUE!

Grotto publications sent to box 4707 or box E-5 will NOT be received by us.

## EDITOR'S COLUMN

If there is any caving organization around that likes to blow its own horn, it's the VPI Grotto. Into the Editor's Column of the Tech Trog-lodyte many boasts and harangues find their way, and this one is no exception.

As most years have been for the VPI Grotto, this one has been very successful. The signs of success are upon the Grotto, not the least of these being the fact that for the last three months the Club treasury has been too depleted to support another issue of this august journal. Where has all our money gone? Carbide uses up a lot of it since the club consumes it at the rate of more than 100 pounds per quarter. Under normal conditions this amount of carbide would represent from 2000 to 3000 hours underground.

What kind of caving do we do to burn up all that carbide? Many weekends see droves of VPI cavers head for the Greenbrier area where they meet with WVACS and others to explore and survey large cave systems. Other groups migrate to some of the untouched areas in Southwestern Virginia to find new caves and map the larger ones. There are groups who are active in the Butler-Sinking Creek System and other areas throughout Virginia and West Virginia. Then, of course, there are many short trips to local caves for photography, training new members, rigging practice, or just for fun. It all adds up to a staggering amount of man-hours spent underground every weekend. Some idea of this can be obtained by standing "behind the SAB at 1:00 o'clock" and watching the Grand Central Station situation develop as cavers begin to congregate, go to the storeroom for carbide, test ropes, stow equipment into car trunks, examine vertical gear, talk, throw snowballs, etc. A few stragglers come puffing up from the Lower Quad toting laundry bags and helmets, cars start and leave, "Let's get going", "Wonder where so-and-so is?", "Here he comes", and so it goes. After a while one begins to marvel at how VPI can stretch a hundred pounds of carbide so that it will last three months.

Of course, the new brunton was a big expense also. A number of years ago, the club owned one brunton. But few people ever used it. Now we own two of them, and it is a good idea to "sign up" for one several weeks in advance if you want to get any surveying done.

Individual members have made great financial outlays, also. Last spring, members purchased a total of 3,600 feet of goldline. It seems that this would saturate the market in this area, but this spring another 2,400 feet was purchased. Among other equipment purchased by individuals were five sets of jumars.

So, VPI does a lot of caving. What have they to show for it? Have they produced any results? The answer is an emphatic "yes": The results are strongest in cave mapping. In the past year maps have been completed of Steele's Cave and Ward Cove Cave in Tazewell County,

with projects underway in Cauliflower, Fallen Rock, Chimney, and Higgenbotham's #2 Caves. In Pulaski County 50-Foot Hell Cave has been mapped with a project underway in James Cave which has now topped a mile. Pulaski County projects are in conjunction with the New River Valley Cave Club, which have included the discovery and exploration of many new caves in that area. In Bland County, more precisely in the Newberry-Bane's system, three projects are presently underway; Coon Cave is being mapped; the lower section of Penley's is being mapped with about 1,500 new feet of passage surveyed; and Bane's Spring is being surveyed with 5,000 new feet mapped and another 1,000 known to exist in addition to the "old" 1,750 feet. In Roanoke County, Miller's Cove Cave has finally been completed with 2.5 total miles surveyed. In West Virginia, no careful record has been kept of what VPI people have done in conjunction with WVACS and others, but they have played an important part in not only exploring and mapping, but in scientific work as well. Walt Allen Cave in Pocahontas County was mapped during Winter quarter.

Aside from mapping and exploration, VPI has practiced rescue techniques and various individuals have made improvements in equipment design, led cleanup projects to local caves, and worked on a club journal.

How does VPI manage all this? There must be clubs with as many members and as many cars. There must be clubs as close to the caves as VPI. How can VPI claim the undisputed title of "World's Most Active Caving Organization"? In my personal opinion it all boils down to one thing: individual enthusiasm. There are those caving organizations that pride themselves in being organized on a team effort. For example, this recent appalling statement was found in an Eastern newsletter:

"In the Grotto everyone receives a measure of responsibility and learns the true meaning of teamwork as a vital part of a disciplined, well-functioning group. The Grotto is never a group of individuals but a single body in which each part must rely on the others for its safety."

In the VPI Grotto, one learns quickly to be an independent, self-sufficient individual. Members initiate and coordinate their own projects and trips. Our safety code is nominal, as members are usually intelligent enough to realize that basic safety does not spring from subjective rules, and that, just as they are individuals, so is each situation. VPI cavers commonly know enough to view each of these situations objectively and deal with it according to his own capabilities. Just as enthusiasm drives the VPI caver, common sense makes him safe. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Let us hope that this journal never has to print anything such as this:

"At the November meeting a motion was passed stating that all Grotto members would be required to wear a hard hat of a specified design to better the appearance of the Grotto uniform..."

I personally hope that this journal will be as great as the VPI Grotto.

R.E. Whittemore

### THE VPI SPOTLIGHT

Ever notice how your trusty carbide lamp chooses to betray you when there is neither time nor place to discipline it? Like dangling above 200 feet of solid air? Don't throw it away! Just build the VPI Spotlight for a quick, bright, no-fumbling substitute!

With the Spotlight, you have the advantages of both types of light: steady, economical flame or sharp, instant beam. It is much brighter than a penlight and less bulky than a miner's lamp. A shock mount protects The Spotlight from all but the worst, and brim mounting leaves the hands free. The weight increase is quite small.

(See Hardhat Detail)

Four manganese (alkaline) penlight batteries supply the power, selected for their longer output per unit weight and size, as well as economy, over the zinc-carbon battery. A series-parallel configuration yields three volts for more than twice as long as just two batteries. Use of a low current, three volt bulb, such as the PR-6, lengthens the time, also. A PR-4 may be substituted at a sacrifice in time and the PR-2 drains too quickly.

(See Spotlight Detail)

Construction: The Spotlight itself is made from the flashlight head. Remove the lens and reflector. Drill small holes for the 1/16 inch connection screws in the metal shield and the bulb retainer. Insert the screws and tighten with the nuts. Drill a hole for the support screw just behind the lens and reflector positions. Insert the support screw and a washer and tighten with a nut and washer. Reinsert the lens and reflector, trimming their edges if necessary. Seal the head by filling the cavity in the head with filling compound, smoothing it over. Observe curing time.

(See Bulb Retainer Clip)

Cut the small loop off the curtain hook and bend the ends about 3/8" in. Drill two holes laterally opposite in the head, behind the reflector. Spring the curtain hook clip to fit. It should secure the bulb retainer by fitting in a small carved notch.

(See Brim Support Detail)

Drill a hole in the hat brim, larger than the support screw, to allow flexing. Put a grommet above and below and mount the Spotlight with a large washer and two nuts locked against each other so as to hold firmly while permitting the Spotlight to push back against the hat.

(See Connection Detail)

All connections should be soldered or screwed down. As illustrated, use terminals and sleeves on the lamp, if possible. Cover all exposed connections with a thin coat of nail polish for protection.

(See Switch Detail)

The switch connections are soldered and protected with sleeves or use nail polish. The mount is an angle bracket trimmed to about 1" x 3/8" x 3/8" drilled to take the switch. Drill a hole for a 3/32" screw in the hat and mount the angle and the switch. The switch toggle should be just under the rim of the hat.

(See Battery Detail)

The battery clip is wired and soldered as illustrated with two leads coming from the "+" and "-" terminals. The batteries are tied in with a string. The clip is in a plastic bag and supported in the top of the hat by a layer of foam padding.

(See Wiring Detail)

The wiring is straightforward. Should one desire the option of increasing the length of operation by adding an extra battery pack, carried on the belt, just use a spdt switch and a pair of binding posts at the back. Another switch, either on the hat or on the extra pack, would turn the light on and off.

#### PARTS LIST

No. ea.

Manganese alkaline penlight (AA) batteries	4
PR-6 bulbs (buy extras)	2+
Eveready flashlight (cheap 99¢) w/ plug bulb retainer	1
1/16" x 1/2" screws and matching nuts	2&4
3/32" x 1/2" screw and nut	1&3
3/32" x 1/2" screw and nut	1&1
Small washers (approximately)	8
Tub caulk (filling compound, try Dow-Corning <u>Silastic</u> )	
Shower curtain hook	1
3/4" and 1/2" rubber grommets	1
1/2" washer	1
Wire (copper, stranded), terminals, sleeves	
Miniature SPST switch (try a radio store)	1
1" x 3/8" x 3/8" angle bracket	1
Battery clip for 4 penlight (AA) batteries	1

Gene Harrison

Submitted for publication March 11, 1966

\* \* \* \* \*

## HANK'S FOLLY

After participating in surveying some portions of the extensive Greenbrier System, I became aware of the great need for dependable communications between separated survey groups. At first, the problem of designing a device which would allow voice communication over a mile underground seemed impractical. The diverse structure of the cave would tend to absorb and scatter almost any type of electromagnetic propagation. Other problems like size, mobility, and ease of operation, certainly would not aid in the design of the device.

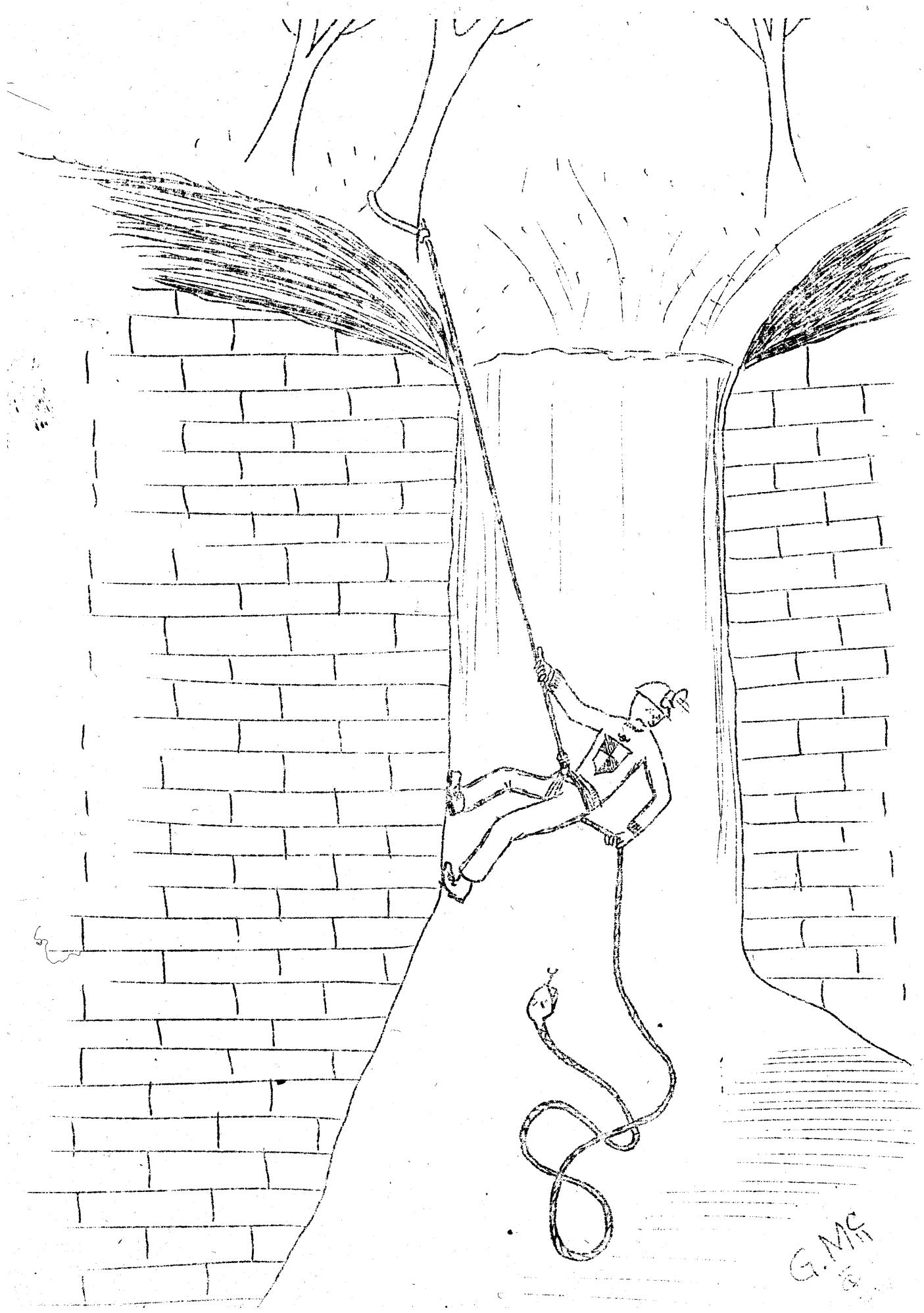
A few prominent cavers expressed their interest in a cave walkie-talkie to the extent that my enthusiasm got the best of me. I first read some short articles on perfected cave radios in the "Baltimore Grotto News". The articles were entirely devoted to hi-intensity D.C. field communication that was used for surveying primarily surface to sub-surface topography. The equipment seemed heavy and awkward and did not allow for voice communication; therefore, the material was not much help to me.

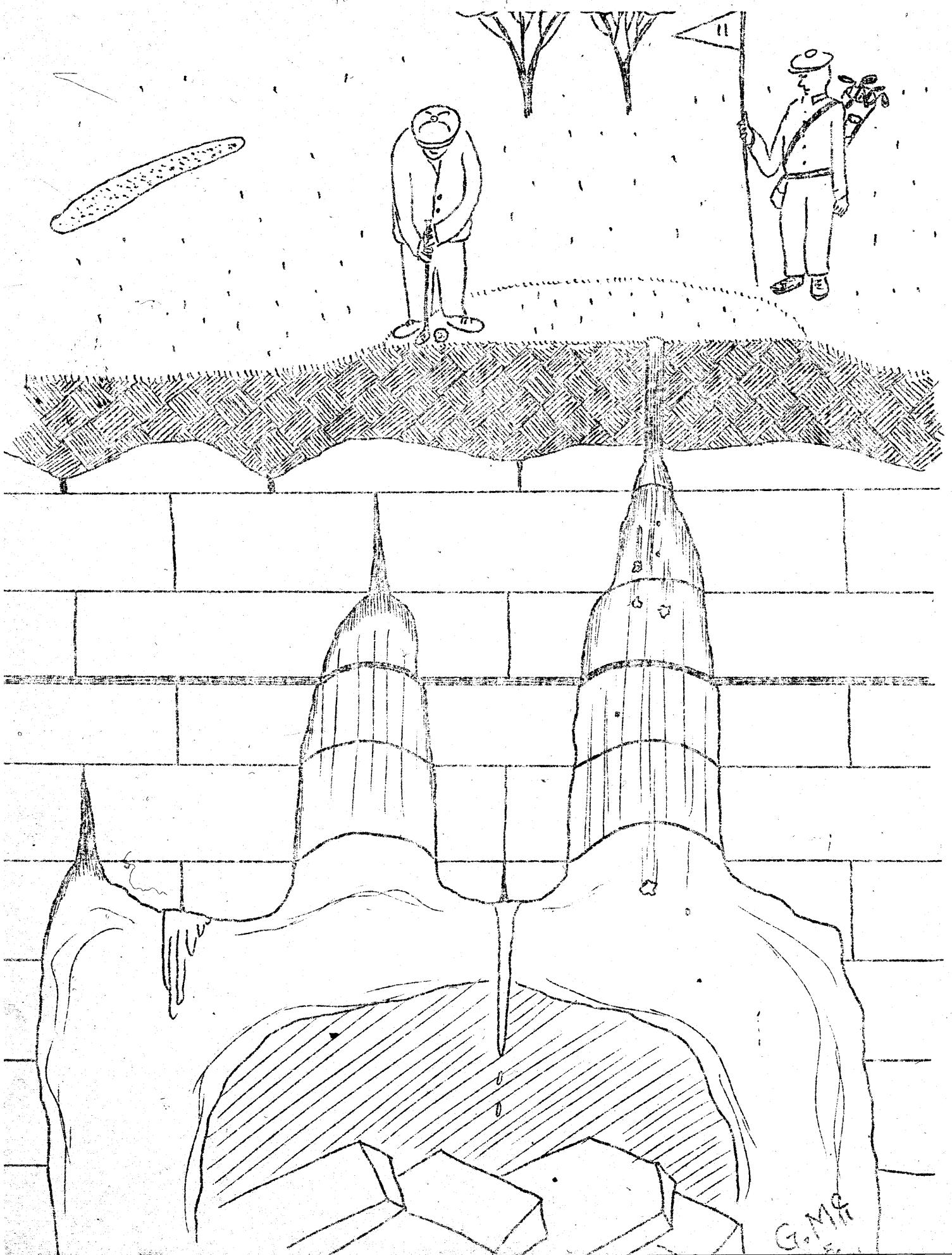
The operating frequency of the walkie-talkie would be the most important feature. The success of the transceiver would depend primarily on the lowest frequency that could be practically used. I chose one megacycle which would put the walkie-talkie in the middle of the broadcast band. This particular choice has its definite advantages. Almost everyone has a transistor B.C. receiver and could use it when surveying. Also, the F.C.C. would not frown on radiating in the middle of the broadcast band since the law provides for the use of low power transmitters in this band.

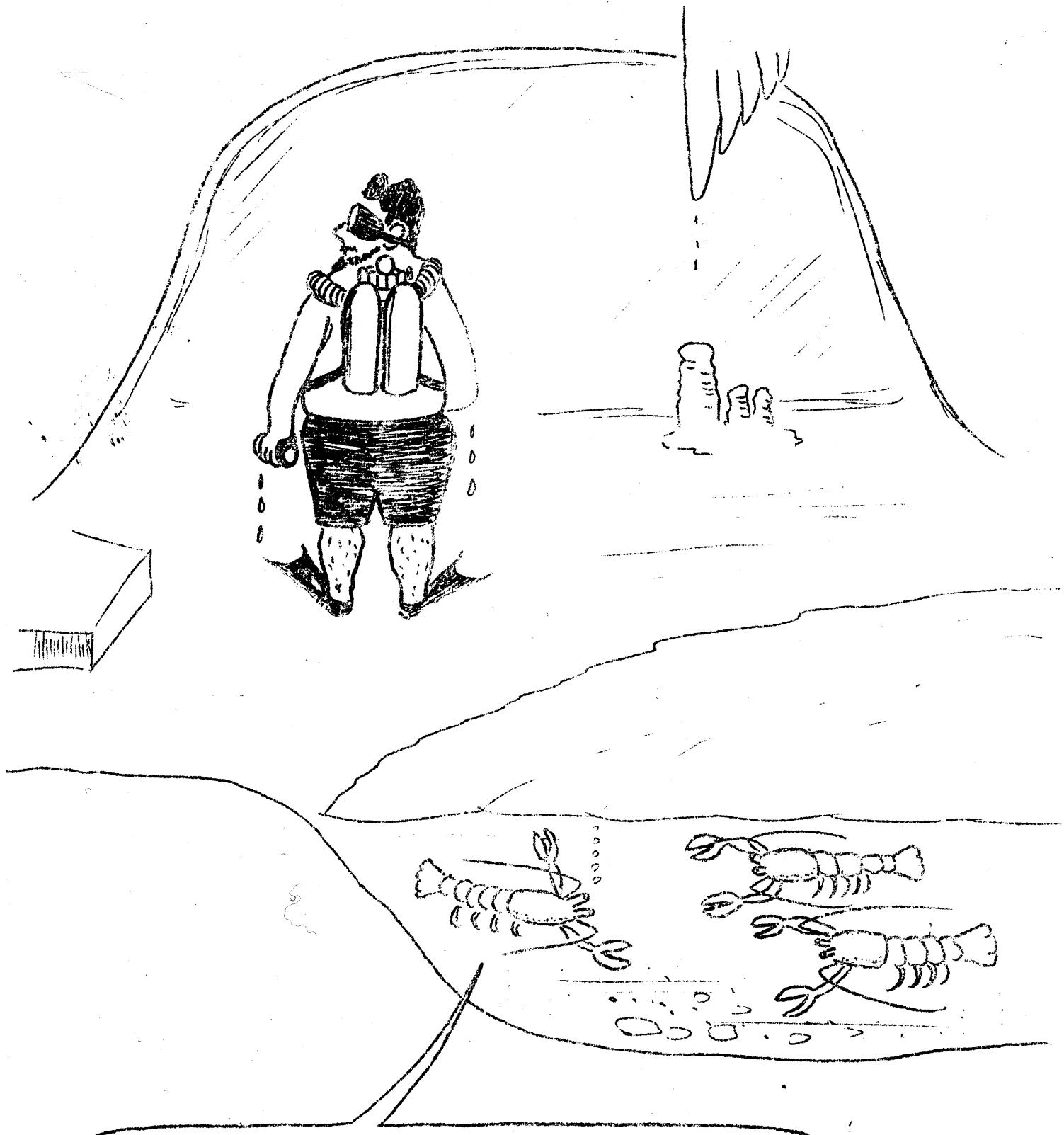
After establishing the most economical, practical, operating frequency for the walkie-talkie, it was not long before I had a prototype in operation. It weighed approximately four pounds, measured 8"x5"x3", and transmitted with a power input of three watts for one hour and received for seventy-two hours continuously. The device could be held in one hand, or could be strapped to a person's arm. It was completely self-contained, including batteries. The device that was built was just right for the lost caver, except for one item; the antenna.

The shortest antenna for reasonable efficiency is one-fourth the wave length of the operating frequency. At one megacycle, the antenna would then have to be about two-hundred and thirty feet long. For obvious reasons, no matter how small and mobile the walkie-talkie was, it would be very impractical for caving. I spent some time trying various configurations of antennae and the best I could do was a nine-foot whip that was center loaded with a loading coil twice the size and weight of the walkie-talkie. My project was therefore abandoned but I would like to inform the reader before I close, that the radio did perform very well when tested in cave conditions with the large antenna. Therefore, if some energetic, resourceful individual can come up with a short, short radiator for one megacycle, I would be very interested in using it for the cave radio.

Henry H. Harjes

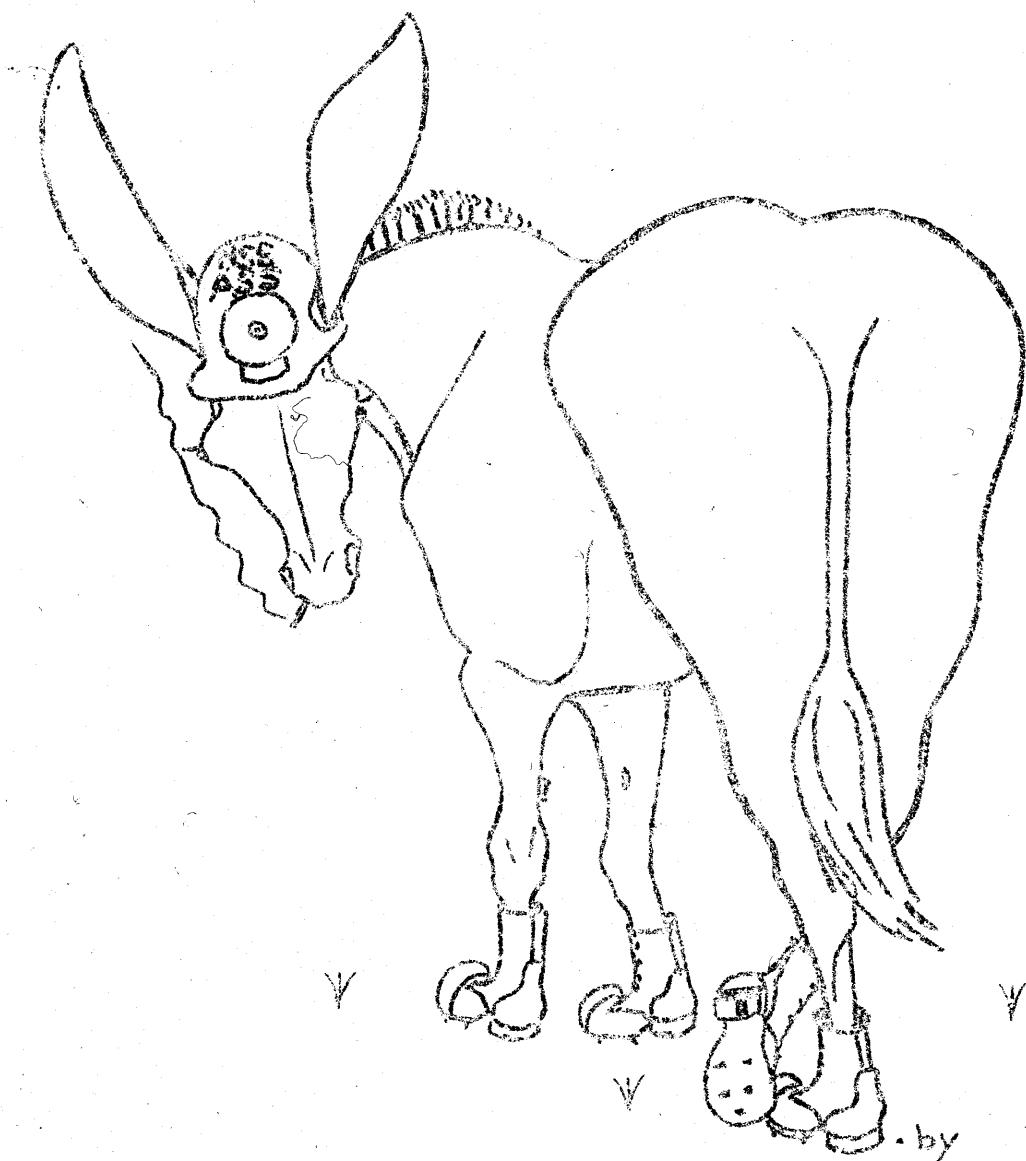






Observe the lack of skin pigment.  
This indicates a troglobitic species!

G. Mc  
G.W.



5th Amendment

"If the shoe fits - wear it!"

SPRING PROJECT - TAZEWELL COUNTY, VIRGINIA  
April 30, 1966.

Water, water everywhere, especially in the caves. This was the theme of the VPI Grotto Spring Project in Tazewell County. This project, whose main objective was to map Higginbotham's No. 2, was planned for Winter quarter but was postponed because of lack of transportation. This quarter transportation was not a problem with three cars going this time. However, we did have one small, insignificant problem - Water. As of the Sunday before the project, the weather had been perfect for caving. The last significant rainfall had been in the last part of February. However, on Monday it rained. On Tuesday it rained. On Wednesday it rained. On Thursday it rained. On Friday morning it rained. For those who have not been to Higginbotham's No. 2, it is not a good idea to go into the cave when it is raining or if there is a possibility of a hard rain. Therefore, there was considerable doubt when the three cars left about noon Saturday as to what we would be doing.

Thusly, with 120 feet of ladders, 600 feet of nylon rope, a lot of hope, and no sense, we headed to No. 2. Just as we arrived it started raining, and raining, and raining. As a result we decided to pass up Higginbotham's No. 2. The Armstrong and Marshall cars went to Ward Cove Cave to deposit camping gear and the Thorne car headed for Chimney Rock Cave with 2000+ feet needing exploration and mapping. They found and explored 1000 feet of new cave. In the process they got wet and did not do any mapping. They returned to Blacksburg after leaving the cave. The Armstrong and Marshall cars went to Cauliflower Cave and mapped 1000 feet before running out of dry passage. They then returned to Ward Cove Cave where they spent the night. At that time it was still raining. On Sunday Tazewell County was returned to the Rain Gods, and the group went to Dead Air Cave in Smyth County.

Thus the only accomplishments of the project were the finding of 1000 feet of new cave in Chimney Rock Cave and the mapping of 1000 feet in Cauliflower Cave.

We had several problems, but by far the biggest one was the rain. This was one problem about which we could do nothing. Not only did it limit the extent of our caving, but more importantly it had a demoralizing affect on the participants. Another problem was the planned meeting of the two groups. The original purpose of the meeting was for the Armstrong-Marshall group to help the Thorne group finish mapping Chimney Rock and to pick up the other brunton for use on Sunday. However, the Thorne group got wet finding the new section and, because they were wet and cold, decided not to wait for the Armstrong-Marshall group. Again, if it had not been raining this connection would have been made.

So be thinking about a spot for the Fall Project and plan to attend. (Also hope for nicer weather)

Edward F. Morgan

Submitted for publication May 16, 1966.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

May 1, 1966

Dear Sir:

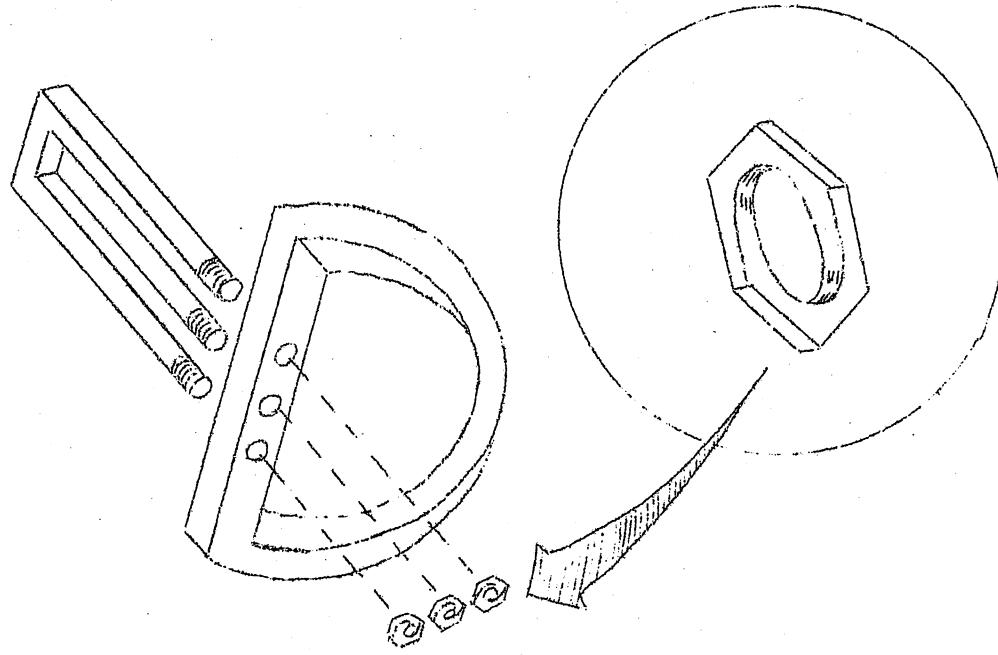
I would have sent this directly to the NSS NEWS but thought you'd like it since VPI has always been first to realize the potential of a new method. Zeke Fuller and I have been working with the "rappelender" which first appeared in the April 1966 NSS NEWS. We have had trouble with transmogrification of the pseudo-curvilinear trigonometric insert, which was probably caused by the counter-clockwise rotation of the rope while descending.

We have tried several different kinds of locking devices to arrest this transmogrification and have found a simple ambihedral hexnut to be about the safest thing on the market. The main safety feature lies in the design of the nut, which must be fully screwed on before it can be screwed off.

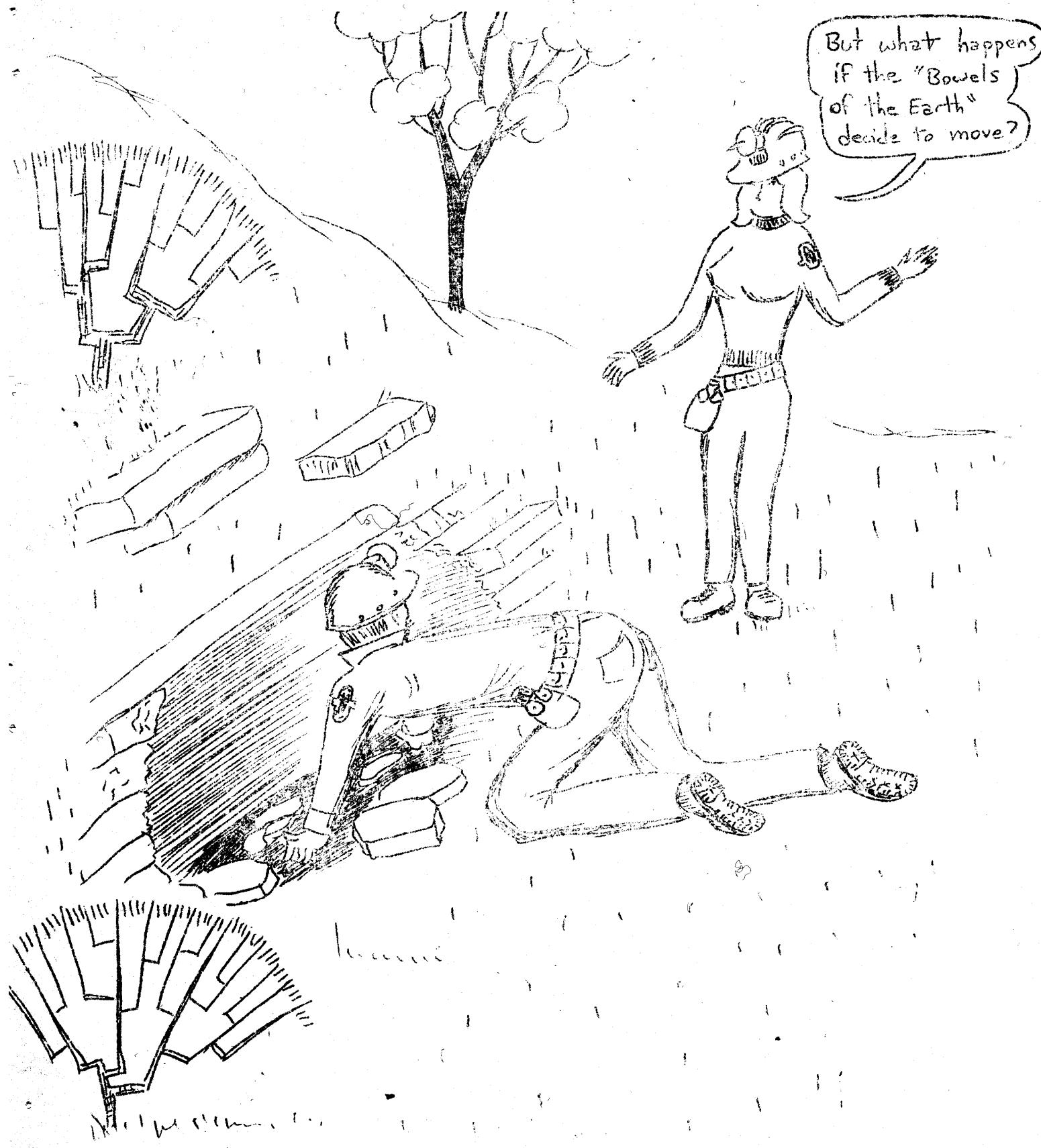
Diagram enclosed.

Yours truly,

/s/ Paul Helbert



But what happens  
if the "Bowels  
of the Earth"  
decide to move?



February 15, 1966

Harumph -- coff - coff...

- (1) I refer you to the enclosed news clippings.
- (2) I refer you to page 31 of the latest NSS Bulletin (Vol. 28, no. 1).
- (3) I refer you to page 38 of the latest Tech Troglodyte (Vol. IV, no. 2). Kindly request Hamrat to change: VPI Grotto More Discreet, Most Successful Cave Rescue Team to: VPI Grotto More Discreet, Most Successful, More Needed Cave Rescue Team.

Thank you?

Paul Schulz  
Chairman; Richmond Grotto

\*\*\*\*\*

February 20, 1966

Dear Gary,

Mighty glad to see the article on the new work in Newberry-Bane and Penley's. My previous information was somewhat incorrect; I heard that a connection to Penley's had been made.

Below are a few changes to the West Virginia cave list (mostly from John Rutherford, WVACS on December 10, 1965).

The Hole -----	Mapped 5 miles, explored 10 miles.
McClungs -----	Mapped 9.5 miles, explored 10 miles.
Ludington -----	Mapped 4 miles, explored 5 miles.
2 entrances -----	Mapped.
Benedict -----	Mapped 1 mile.
Hunt Cave -----	Mapped 1.85 miles, explored 1.85 miles (9700 feet).

I think this is all of Hunt, might be able to push a second entrance. Quite a lot of trash digging.

Sincerely,  
/s/ Earl Thierry

P.S. Any of map of New River yet?

\*\*\*\*\*

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Subscriptions to the Tech Troglodyte are available at one cent (1¢) per page. \$1.50 will buy the subscriber one years worth of fun-packed, intellectual reading. Make your checks payable to the VPI Grotto and send to the address on the cover of this journal.

## FIFTY FOOT HELL CAVE

50 Foot Hell Cave is located just north of Route 11 between Radford and Dublin in Pulaski County, Virginia (Radford quadrangle, C 4/3/5, Lat.  $37^{\circ}08'07''$ , Long.  $80^{\circ}38'35''$ ). It was discovered on October 29, 1965 by Ed Morgan, Bob Lewis, and Dan Lewis while looking for some other leads.

The entrance, which is quite tight, is located in a small sink in a ravine 200 yards ENE of Mr. C.W. Nye's house. The cave, basically one passage trending ENE, roughly parallels Route 11. The cave is quite muddy in spots. The name of the cave comes from a very tight 50-foot crawl at the end. The crawl averages  $1\frac{1}{2}$  feet wide and  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet high. The sides are very rough and there are numerous pools in it. (In other words, pure Hell!) At the end of the crawl it narrows down slightly. More cave can be seen but it is impossible to get by this spot without the use of Instant Cave. A very slight breeze was detected at this spot.

The cave was mapped on November 6, 1965 by Ed Morgan (VPI, New River Valley Cave Club), Bob Lewis (NRVCC), Dan Lewis (NRVCC) and Harry Johnson. The entire cave was mapped with a total length of 1360 feet, making it the third largest cave in Pulaski County. It ranks behind James Cave (Ferrall's Cave) with 6000 feet and Southern's Cave with 1400 feet.

Edward Morgan

Submitted for publication February 1, 1966.

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NOTICE

NOTICE

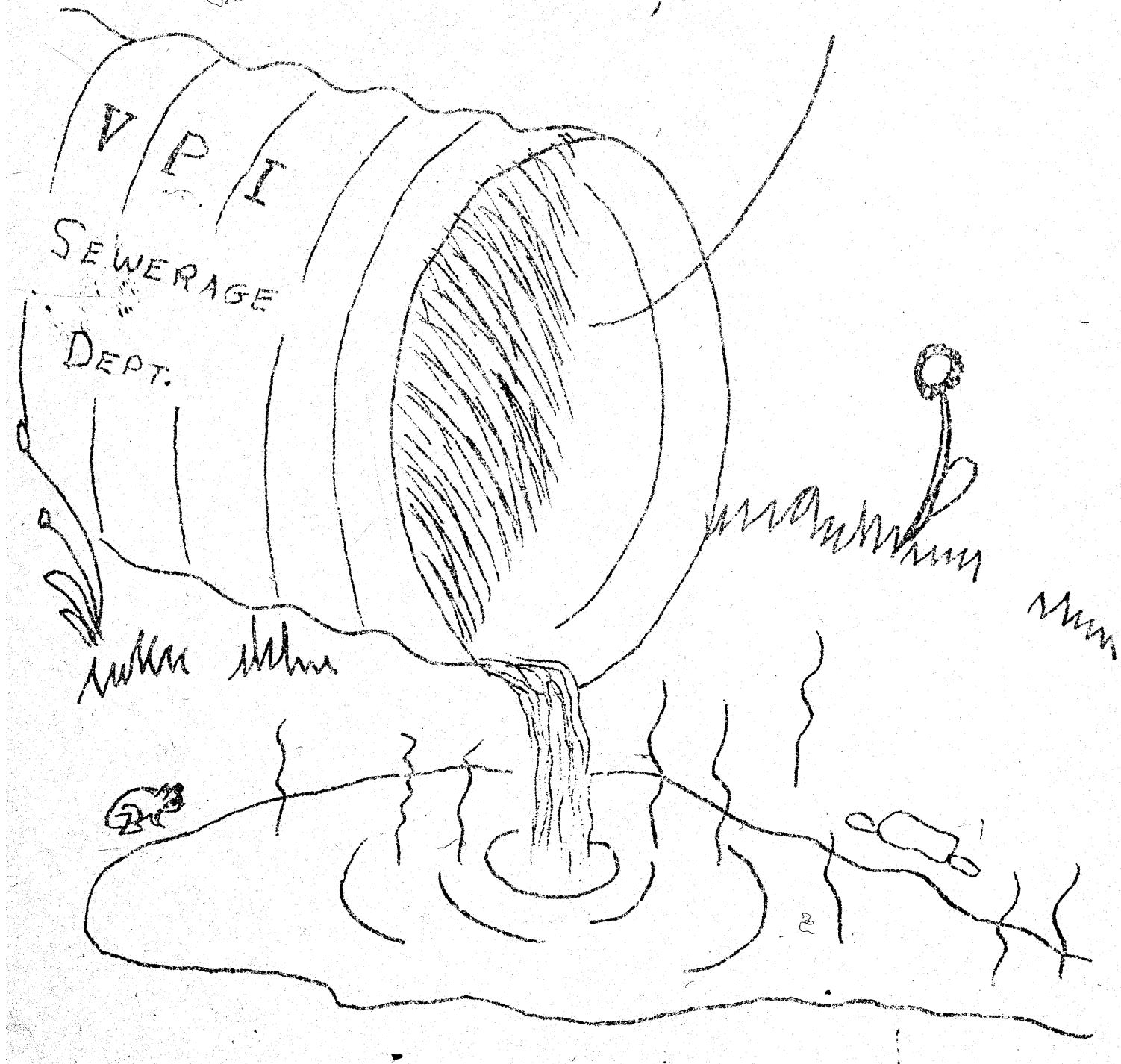
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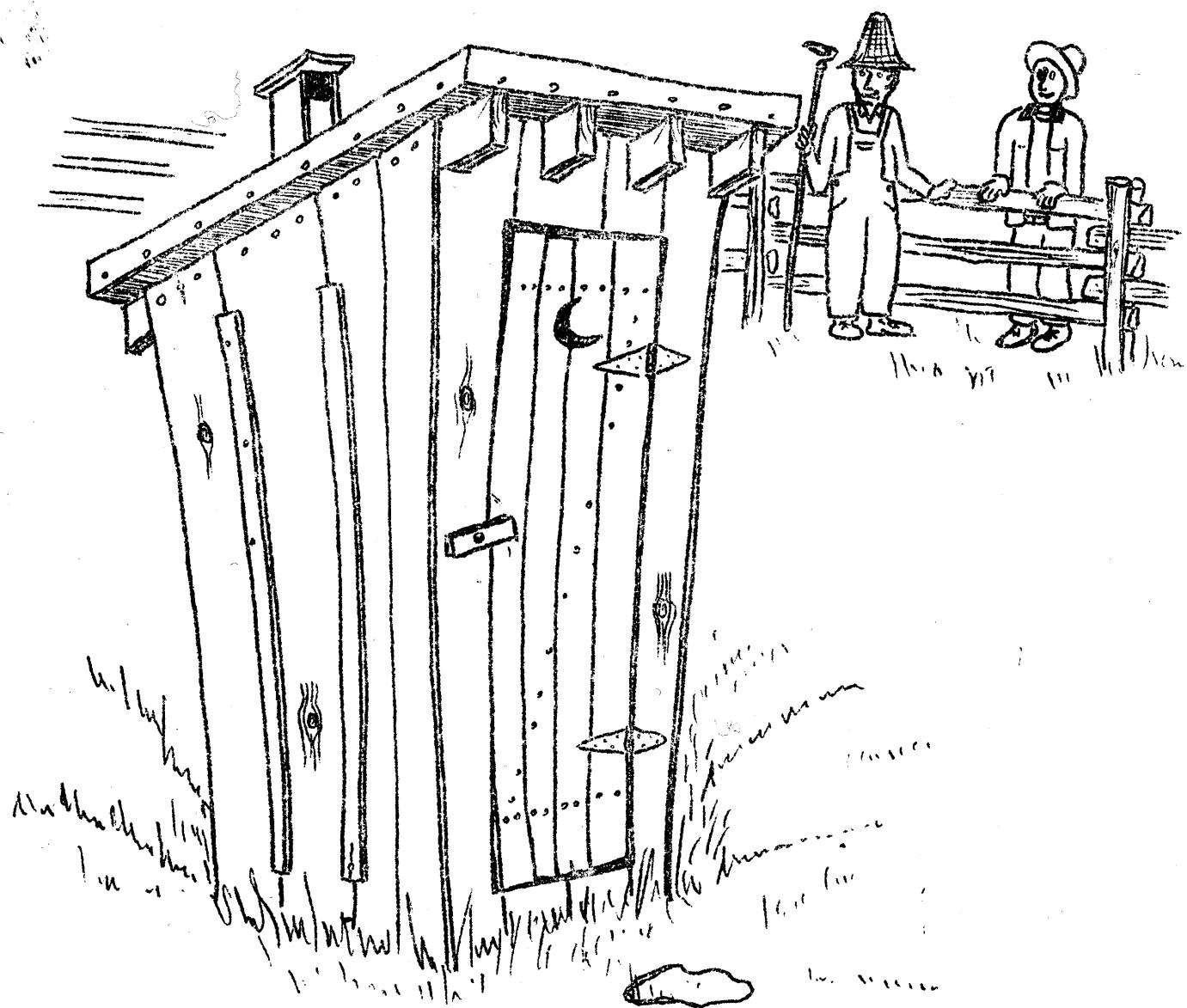
George Stonikinis  
405 S. Main Street  
Apartment 4  
Blacksburg, Va.

Hold the light steady  
fellows, while I scatter  
the fluorescene...



From GEO. GEOGRAPHY

Most effective cave  
gate I've ever seen.



"Whitt"

## PROGRESS REPORT OF THE VIRGINIA CAVE SURVEY

By John R. Holsinger, Director, Va. Cave Survey -- Dept. of Biology  
East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, Tennessee,  
37601.

(Editor's Note: This report has been revised and updated  
by the editors of this journal since its first appearance  
in the D.C. Speleograph.)

The following report is a brief summary of all new data collected on Virginia caves since the summer of 1962 (cut-off point for material published in the Caves of Virginia). The caves listed in my last progress report ("A resume of the information collected on Virginia caves since 1962" -- published in several regional newsletters in 1965) are included herein in order that all supplementary data can be brought together in one place. The present report has been prepared for three reasons: (1) to up-date all recent, pertinent data on Virginia caves, (2) to serve as a guide to those persons working on the Survey, and (3) to prevent duplication of work which has been completed or is in progress.

A reorganizational meeting of the Virginia Cave Survey was held in conjunction with the 1965 Virginia Region Meeting in Blacksburg, and at that time a number of areas needing survey work were assigned to volunteers. Another meeting of those interested in assisting with the Survey was held in conjunction with the Region meeting this year (fall of 1966) in Charlottesville.

Since the summer of 1962, new data have been compiled on caves in 19 counties of Virginia. A number of major caves have been mapped or are in the process of being mapped, and a total of 135 new caves have been recorded. All caves for which any new information is available are included in the following list. Those caves denoted by an asterisk are new to the Survey. No attempt has been made to present lengthy or detailed descriptions in this report. Detailed data and maps will be published in the proposed "Supplement to the Caves of Virginia" which is tentatively scheduled for publication in 1970. Anyone interested in working on the Virginia Cave Survey should contact me directly.

ALLEGHANY COUNTY

CARTER CAVE -- Newcastle NW 8/6/9. A new passage of significant extent recently discovered by U.Va. Grotto, now being explored by R. Barrody, 1966 (pers. comm.)

PAXTONS CAVE -- Newcastle NE 7/7/6. 17,000 ft. surveyed to date; map in files. -- R. Barrody, 1966 (pers. comm.)

WARES CAVE -- Clifton Forge C 4/6/5. Recently mapped by Lexington Extension of U. Va. Grotto. Map in files.

AUGUSTA COUNTY

FOUNTAIN CAVE -- Harrisonburg SC 9/9/6. Re-surveyed by U. Va. Grotto. Map in files.

OLD QUARRY CAVES (Fordwick) #'s 5-10 -- Craigsville SC 2/2/8. Six small caves reported by R. L. Capone and R. Baroody, 1966.

\*RAILROAD SHELTER CAVE -- Craigsville SC 2/2/5. Shelter cave -- R. Baroody, 1966.

BATH COUNTY

BOUNLESS CAVE -- Williamsville NC 7/5/5. 700 ft. of new passage explored and surveyed by L. Bicking, 1964 (Nittany Grotto News, v. 8, n. 3, p. 53-55).

CAVE RUN PIT CAVE -- Warm Springs NE 9/9/1. Sketch map by J. Cooper and L. Bicking, 1962.

MOUNTAIN GROVE SALTPETER CAVE -- Warm Springs C 8/2/? New data reported by H. H. Douglas; no report filed to date.

WITHEROS CAVE -- Williamsville SC 6/6/9. About 1,000 ft. of new passage reported by C. Taliaferro, 1965 (pers. comm.).

BLAND COUNTY

BANE'S SPRING -- Pulaski WC 4/9/5. About 7500 ft. mapped by Anne Whittemore, VPI, with more remaining.

BUDDY PENLEY'S CAVE -- Pulaski WC 4/8/8. Length extended to 4,000 ft. by VPI Grotto in 1966, 1500 of it mapped by Ed Morgan, VPI. (Tech Troglodyte, v. 4, n. 2, p. 43-45).

MOREHEAD CAVE (no. 2) -- Bland EC 9/4/3. Reported by R. Nolting as "Name Unknown" but probably same as Morehead Cave (Tech Troglodyte, v. 3, n. 1, p. 24-26).

\*MUNSEYS #1 AND 2 -- Bland EC 8/9/1 and 8/9/2, respectively. Two small caves reported by R. Nolting, VPI, 1964 (Tech. Troglodyte, v. 3, n. 1. p. 24-26)

NEWBERRY-BANE CAVE -- Pulaski WC 4/8/9. Approximately 1,000 ft. explored by VPI in addition to the 12,460 ft. reported and mapped earlier (Tech Troglodyte, v. 4, n. 2, p. 43-45.).

\*SPRINGHOUSE CAVE -- Bland EC 8/6/4. For Record Only (FRO). See Tech Troglodyte, v. 3, n. 1, p. 24-26.

CRAIG COUNTY

WALKTHROUGH CAVE -- Salem NC 1/7/4. 270 ft. long. Sketched by G. Marland, VPI, 1965. (Tech Trogolodyte, v. 3, n. 4, p. 132).

GILES COUNTY

A long-needed, partial revision of the caves of this county was prepared by Gregg Marland, 1965. (Tech Trogolodyte, V. 3, N. 4, p. 125-132).

GIANT CAVERNS -- Narrows SE 1/6/5. Recently mapped (1,500 ft.) by E. Morgan, VPI. Map in files.

HARRIS CAVE -- Radford NW 2/6/9. About 1200 feet of passage surveyed by Ed Morgan, VPI, 1966.

KLOTZ QUARRY CAVE -- Pearisburg WC 9/5/1. In process of being surveyed by Sam Dunaway, VPI, 1966.

LINKS CAVE -- Pearisburg SE 3/9/1. About 1000 feet surveyed by Ed Morgan, VPI, 1966.

\*ROBINSONS BLOWHOLE -- Narrows SC 5. About 800 feet of mostly stream passage. Discovered by Sam Dunaway, VPI, 1966.

HIGHLAND COUNTY

VAN DEVANTERS CAVE -- Monterey NE 6/1/6. Map by J. Cooper in files. Entrance to cave has been closed with concrete.

LEE COUNTY

\*ADAMS CAVE -- Keokee SC 3/8/8. Small; entrance in river bluff JRH, 1965.

\*BACON CAVE -- Back Valley NC 3/8/8. Small maze cave -- D. Finley, 1964

\*BACON CREVICE CAVE -- Rose Hill SE 8/5/9. FRO -- J.R.H., 1965.

\*BATLEY CAVE -- Keo'ee SE 6/4/3. Approximately 2,000 ft. with a stream G. Titcomb and J. Fredrick, 1965. Sketch map.

\*BALLARD ELY CAVE -- Keokee SC 8/9/?.. Probably small, not explored J.R.H., 1965.

\*BARNES HOLLOW CAVE -- Wheeler NC 5/4/9. Located but not explored D. Finley, 1964.

BEATY CAVE -- Rose Hill NE 8/6/6. 300 ft. of passage with a stream G. Titcomb and J. Fredrick, 1965.

- \*BLAIR CAVE -- Stickleyville NW 9/9/?.. A deep pit reported; not explored -- J.R.H., 1965.
- \*BRANCH CAVE -- Varilla SE 6/5/2. 200 to 300 ft. of passage -- M. Loveless, 1962.
- \*BRIDGE CAVE -- Middlesboro South NE 2/5/6. 500 to 700 ft. of passage. Mapped by D. Finley, 1964. Map in files.
- BROOKS PITS #1 and 2 -- Coleman Gap NC 1/6/7 and 1/5/6, respectively. Pit #1 has 100 ft. of passage at bottom; #2 has about 300 ft. G. Titcomb and J. Schelleng, 1965.
- BURIAL CAVE -- Ewing SE 6/8/6. 600 ft. of passage with a large stream D. Finley, 1964.
- BURGESS (Burchett) CAVE -- Sneedville NC 6/7/?.. Probably only a sink, but this is not confirmed -- J.R.H., 1965
- \*CLIFF CAVE -- Middlesboro South NE 2/7/8. About 200 ft. of sinucus passage -- M. Loveless, 1962.
- \*COLLIER CAVE -- Ben Hur NE 7/9/?.. Probably very small, not explored J.R.H., 1965.
- \*CUMBERLAND GAP SALTPETER CAVE Middlesboro South NE 2/7/5. Over 0.5 mile explored. Vertical in places. Not completely explored D. Finley, 1965.
- \*DEEP WATER CAVE -- Coleman Gap NC 4/8/4. Small cave with siphon D. Finley, 1965.
- DOG DROP CAVE -- Back Valley NE 1/8/5. 60 ft. pit with no leads D. Finley, 1965.
- \*DRURY CAVE -- Rose Hill SE 5/7/8; 30 ft. pit with no appreciable passage -- J.R.H., 1965.
- \*DUVALTS CAVE -- Sneedville NC 6/?. Reported as fairly large; not pinpointed or explored -- J.R.H., 1965.
- \*ELY (MYERS) CAVE -- Keokee SW 4/8/4. Might be same as ELY (Shaler) CAVE reported by Douglas, 1964 (Caves of Virginia, p. 294). Small with stream and tight entrance above spring -- J.R.H., 1965.
- \*ENGLES CAVE -- Rose Hill SW 3/6/3. 1,500 ft. explored; upper dry level and lower stream level -- J.R.H. and D. Finley, 1964.
- \*FANNON CAVE -- Ben Hur EC 2/4/1. Reported small with a pool of water; not explored -- J.R.H., 1965.

\*FLANNARY CAVE -- Hubbard Springs C 6/8/1. Said to be rather large, not explored -- J.R.H., 1965.

GIBSON -FRAZIER CAVE -- Hubbard Springs SW 4/8/1. 1,000 ft. of new maze passage explored and mapped -- J.R.H., 1965. Revised map in files.

GILES #1 CAVE -- Back Valley NE 6/1/9. Small cave with 2 entrances G. Titcomb and J. Fredrick, 1965.

\*GILES FISSURE CAVE -- Back Valley NE 6/1/5. 20 ft. entrance drop to an unexplored room -- G. Titcomb and J. Fredrick, 1965.

GILLEY CAVE -- Pennington Gap SE 8/8/9. 22,500 ft. mapped to date with leads remaining. Survey in progress. -- R. Barcoody, 1966 (in litt.)

\*GLASS CAVE -- Back Valley NC 6/9/1. FRO -- D. Finley, 1964.

\*GRASSY SPRINGS CAVE -- Varilla SW 7/9/? Pit entrance with about 500 ft. of passage -- M. Loveless, 1962.

GREGORY CAVE -- Rose Hill SE 8/2/2. Roughly 600 ft. cf mostly walking stream passage -- J.R.H., 1964 About 900 ft. mapped as 7-23-66.

\*HAWKINGS CAVE -- Hubbard Springs C 4/5/3. Stream passage; not completely explored -- D. Finley, 1965.

INDIAN CAVE -- Middlesboro South NE 2/8/3. About 1,000 ft. cf dry passage with one large room. Mapped by D. Finley. Map in files.

\*JAMES CAVE -- Sneedville NC 3/5/2. 105 ft. pit entrance with about 500 ft. of stream passage presently explored -- D. Finley, 1965.

JONES SALTPETER CAVE -- Coleman Gap NC 1/5/8. Mapped by G. Titcomb and others in 1965. Map not yet in file.

JONESVILLE SEWER CAVE (=Indian Cave of Douglas, 1964, p. 315) -- Ben Hur WC 4/9/1. Entrance is covered and sewage was pumped into cave until recently; not explored -- J.R.H., 1965.

\*LEWIS CAVE -- Pennington Gap SE 6/9/8. FRO -- J.R.H., 1965.

\*LEWIS BRAINCAVE -- Middlesboro South NE 2/5/9. Entrance in creek bed. 200 ft. explored to a 40 ft. pit -- M. Loveless, 1962.

\*LITTLE ALBERT CAVE -- Sneedville NE 2/9/2. Small, muddy cave -- J.R.H., 1965.

LITTLE SALTPETER CAVE -- Middleboro South NE 2/8/3. About 1,000 ft. of crawlway and canyon passage -- J.R.H., 1962.

LITTON CAVE -- Stickleyville WC 1/5/5. About 800 ft. of walking passage with several large lakes. Mapped. -- J. R. H., 1965.

LONGS CAVE -- Ewing SE 9/1/5. Over 600 ft. of large passage explored. -- D. Finley, 1964.

LONGS SINK CAVE -- Ewing SE 5/7/4. Not visited; probably small -- D. Finley, 1963.

LUCY BEATTY CAVE -- Rose Hill SW 8/1/8. The shale block reported in Caves of Virginia was dug open by Don Finley, but the passage beyond extended only about 200 ft. Total length of cave 600 to 700 ft. Mapped by R. Barroody and party in 1965. Map not yet in files.

\*MCCLURE CAVE -- Hubbard Springs C 8/2/? . Reported to be large, not explored -- J. R. H., 1965.

McCURRYS INDIAN CAVE -- Sneedville NW 4/1/2. 300 ft. to a dead end -- G. Titcomb, 1965.

\*MARY COPE CAVE -- Rose Hill SE 9/7/? . Not pinpointed or explored -- J. R. H., 1965.

MINORS SHEEP CAVE -- Sneedville NW 1/9/4. Large entrance but small cave -- J. R. H., 1965.

\*MOLLY WAGLE CAVE -- Hubbard Springs EC 8/6/1. 500 ft. of mostly walking passage with pools. Mapped. Cave normally closed to spelunking -- J.R.H., 1965.

\*MT. MORIAH PIT -- Hubbard Springs SW 9/2/5. 50 ft. pit with little passage at bottom -- J. R. H., 1965.

OWENS PIT -- Rose Hill SE 8/6/3. Entrance covered by large slab of rock. Explored in conjunction with Surgener System project. 45 ft. deep pit with no leads. -- J. R. H., 1965.

\*QUARRY CAVE -- Middlesboro South NC 6/5/6. FRO -- M. Loveless, 1962.

\*REASOR CEMETERY CAVE -- Big Stone Gap WC 9/4/8. Entrance gives access to large lake. Owner discourages exploration because he gets his water supply from the cave -- G. Titcomb and J. Frederick, 1965.

ROBERTSON CAVE (#3) -- Varilla SE 4/7/9. Medium-sized cave mapped by Don Finley, 1965. Map in files.

SEAL CAVE -- Rose Hill SC 1/4/1. 200 ft. explored to a crawl in water -- J. R. H., 1965.

SKULL CAVE -- Sneedville NW 3/6/1. Small cave -- J. R. H., 1965.

SKYLIGHT CAVE -- Middlesboro South NE 2/6/7. Erroneously called Cumberland Mtn. Saltpeter Cave and described under that name in Caves of Virginia, p. 319.

\*SMITH CHAPEL CAVE -- Ben Hur NE 3/5/8. Reported as a new cave in Cavalier Caver, v. 7, n. 4, p. 55, but no location is given. A cave of a different description was reported by B. Biggers, 1965 (pers. comm.) as a dry passage ending in a "big room".

\*SMITHS MILK CAVE -- Rose Hill SE 9/9/9. About 600 ft. of large, walking passage with a small stream. Mapped. -- J. R. H., 1962.

SPANGLER CAVE -- Hubbard Springs C 5/7/3. A large stream passage cave with approx. 4000 ft. of mapped passage -- J. R. H., 1965.

\*STATION CREEK CAVE -- Varilla SW 8/8/? FRO -- M. Loveless. 1962.

\*STONE MT. CAVE -- Keokee SC 3/1/? Reported to be small; not visited -- J. R. H., 1965.

\*SURGENER CREVICE CAVE -- Rose Hill SE 8/8/2. FRO -- J. R. H., 1965.

SURGENER-GALLOHAN SYSTEM -- Rose Hill and Back Valley Quads. Exploration and surveying in progress; about 10,000 ft. mapped to date. A composite map showing all three caves (Surgener, Gallohan #1 and 2) and surface and subterranean drainage is in preparation. -- J.R.H., 1966.

\*SURGEON CAVE -- Hubbard Springs C 4/8/? Probably very small; not visited -- D. Finley, 1965.

\*TAYLOR PIT -- Rose hill SE 6/4/9. An impressive pit entrance not yet explored -- J. R. H., 1966.

THOMPSON CAVE -- Rose Hill SE 5/4/8. Pit entrance and about 300 ft. of stream passage -- J. R. H., 1965.

\*THOMPSONS CEDAR CAVE -- Hubbard Springs EC 7/8/4. Reported to be 300 ft. of stream passage; not explored -- J. R. H., 1965.

\*THREE SMALL CAVES -- Hubbard Springs SW 8/9/8. Three insignificant "pits", two of which were explored -- J. R. H., 1965.

\*TURTLE CAVE -- Middlesboro South NE 4/3/4. FRO -- D. Finley, 1964.

\*UNNAMED CAVE -- Wheeler NC 4/8/? Not explored -- D. Finley, 1964.

\*UPPER LEWIS HOLLOW CAVE -- Middlesboro South NE 2/8/2. Small cave with a pit. Completely explored (?) -- D. Finley, 1964.

UNTHANKS CAVE -- Sneedville NW 3/4/3. About 11,000 ft. surveyed by H. Thompson with a number of leads unexplored (H. Thompson, pers. comm.).

\*WATER CAVE -- Back Valley NE 3/4/3. A rather low, stream passage; only partially explored -- J. R. H., 1965.

YORK CHURCH CAVE -- Ben Hur EC 1/8/3. Entrance pinpointed but cave not explored -- J. R. H., 1965.

\*WHEELER CAVE (#2) -- Wheeler NC 2/4/3. Small cave -- D. Finley, 1964.

WHEELER PIT -- Wheeler NE 1/1/5. FRO -- D. Finley, 1964.

YOUNG-FUGATE CAVE -- Wheeler NW 6/7/2 and 6/3/7. Approximately 1.0 mile of large, walking stream passage, mapped by D. Finley and T. Richardson, 1965. Map in files.

The following caves, previously reported from Lee County have been checked and are either synonyms or do not actually exist: BALES (Ewing Quad), no cave; CUMBERLAND MTN. SALTPETER (Middlesboro South Quad), same as Skylight Cave (see above); FRY (Ewing Quad), probably same as Burial or Longs Cave; HORTONS (Sneedville Quad), sink with trash, no cave; JONESVILLE SCHOOL CAVE (Ben Hur Quad), if a cave ever existed here, it is now covered by a parking lot; MUNSEY (Sneedville Quad), tight crevice, not traversable; SUTPHIN (Ewing Quad), no cave; UNNAMED (Ewing Quad), no cave.

#### PAGE COUNTY

\*KELPENITE CAVE -- Mt. Jackson NW 7/2/6 ??? (see D. G. Speleograph, v.22, n.4, p.37-38). FRO. Location is apparently in error (J.R.H.)

#### PULASKI COUNTY

(Reports by Ed Morgan, VPI, 1965-66 unless otherwise indicated)

\*DALTONS #1 CAVE -- Radford C 2/2/5. FRO.

\*FIFTY FOOT HELL CAVE -- Radford C 4/3/5. About 1300 ft. mapped by Ed morgan.

\*HYLTONS CAVE -- Radford C 2/1/3. FRO.

\*JAMES CAVE -- Radford C 3/1/6. About 6000 ft. explored and surveyed; project still in progress -- Ed Morgan, 1966 (pers. comm.)

\*MEBANE #3 CAVE -- Radford WC 6/5/3. One fairly large room.

\*NEW RIVER DEPOT -- Radford WC 6/3/6. FRO.

\*SUTTONS CAVES (#'s 1-6) -- Radford Quad. Six small caves are reported on the Sutton Estate.

ROANOKE COUNTY

GOODWINS CAVE -- Elliston NC 2/7/3. Recent exploration has extended this cave to 2542 ft. Mapped by Roanoke Extension of U. Va. Grotto. Map in files.

MILLERS COVE CAVE -- Salem WC 6/8/3. About  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles surveyed by Sam Dunaway and R. E. Whittemore, VPI. Map in files. The length of 18,000 ft. given in Caves of Virginia, p. 364, is in error (J.R.H.)

The following caves have been given corrected locations by R. Eubank, VPI, (Tech Troglodyte, v.4, n.1, 1965): D. E. CUSTER, ROBERT CUSTER, McNEILLS, NEWMAN, and SHEPHERD. A few pertinent remarks are also included.

ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY

BATHERS CAVE -- Lexington SW 2/9/3. Mapped by G. Berry. Map in files.

\*BRUSH DUMP CAVE -- Location ??? (reported in Cavalier Caver, v.7, n.4, p.58)

\*COVE RUN SHELTER CAVE -- Craigsville SW 9/1/1. Sandstone shelter -- R. Baroody, 1966.

SHOWALTERS CAVE -- Lexington SW 8/7/2. About 300 ft. of muddy, walking cave. Owner does not permit entry -- J. R. H., 1965.

\*SUNDAY CAVES (#'s 1-6) -- Craigsville SW 9/2. Four small caves -- R. Baroody, 1966.

The following new caves have been pinpointed on the Craigsville Quad by Roger Baroody but are not yet described: BLACKOAK RIDGE #1 and 2, COVE RUN, KNOB MTN. and WILSON BRIDGE. All are at SW 9/1 and 2. RIDGE CAVE (p. 374 in Caves of Virginia) is probably the same as one of the Blackoak Ridge Caves.

RUSSELL COUNTY

(Reported by R. E. Whittemore, VPI, 1965-66, unless otherwise indicated)

BANNERS CORNER CAVE -- Moll Creek NC 3/2/8. Revised sketch by J. R. H.

\*BIG SPRING CAVE -- Elk Garden SC 6/2/2. 750 ft. of stream passage.

\*BUSHES CAVE -- Moll Creek NW 3/6/7. 80 ft. pit.

\*CASTLE RUN CHURCH CAVE -- Moll Creek NC 5/9/1. Entrance in cliff; not explored -- J. R. H., 1963.

\*COONS DEN CAVE -- Carbo SE 4/8/8. About 800 to 1000 ft. with several small pits.

\*COPPER CREEK PIT -- Moll Creek EC 5/5/4. FRO.

\*DOG HOLE -- Moll Creek NW 2/4/9. FRO.

DORTONS PIT -- Hansonville NC 4/4/6. FRO.

\*DORTONS SPRING CAVE -- Moll Creek SC 1/8/5. 300 ft. long.

\*FRALEY'S CAVE -- St. Paul SC 1/5/6. Small cave.

\*FLAT SPUR HOLE -- Elk Garden SC 6/2/9. FRO. Other caves (some larger?) are reported in same area but not located.

GIBSONS CAVE -- Hansonville NW 6/1/3. About 300 ft. of canyon passage.

\*GIBSONS BARN CAVE -- Hansonville NW 6/1/6. FRO.

HARMON CAVE -- Moll Creek NW 2/1/9. Small stream passage cave with canyon and 25 ft. waterfall. J. R. H., 1963.

INDIAN CAVE -- St. Paul SC 7/7/1. 1500 to 2000 ft. of stream passage. Mapped by E. Bauer and R. Simonds, VPI, 1965. Map in files.

\*INDIAN BONE CAVE -- St. Paul SC 7/2/2. Indian remains reported excavated. Cave is small.

KISERS CAVE -- Moll Creek NW 3/9/5. FRO -- Anne Whittemore, VPI, 1965.

KISERS PIT CAVE -- Moll Creek NW 3/9/1. 160 ft. pit with no leads -- M. Hamilton, VPI, 1965.

\*MAGGIE BAKERS CAVE -- Moll Creek EC 8/2/4. Not explored; probably small.

\*MINTON CAVE -- Moll Creek NC 5/9/4. Entrance seen from road; cave not visited -- J. R. H., 1963.

\*OAK GROVE SCHOOL CAVE -- Hansonville C 7/4/4. FRO.

\*ROADSIDE FISSURE -- Moll Creek NW 8/6/8. FRO.

\*ROTENS CAVE -- Hansonville NW 2/8/9. Small cave which once served as living quarters for a family.

\*SYKES CAVE -- Lebanon NC 7/5/4. Three small solution tube openings in the cliff face. Another cave called "Sikes Cave" is reported in this vicinity; but could not be located -- J. R. H., 1964.

\*UNNAMED CAVE -- Carbo SE 7/9/? Several hundred feet of walking passage ending in a crawlway -- W. J. Stephenson, 1963.

\*WOLF CAVE -- Moll Creek WC 5/2/2. About 800 ft. of walking passage. Explored and mapped by C. Kacsur, 1963.

ROCKINGHAM COUNTY

\*DEER DROP CAVE -- Harrisonburg NE 1/9/9. Small cave with a 50 ft. entrance drop and 2 rooms developed on a lower level -- J. R. H., 1963.

ENDLESS CAVERNS -- Mt. Jackson WC 9/6/7. Total length exceeds 6000 ft. Explorers Trail section (ca. 3000) recently mapped. Commercial section reportedly being surveyed by R. Blackburn.

HUMES RUN CAVE -- Elkton NC 4/6/8. Rough sketched by J. Tichenor, 1962.

\*RYMANS HOLE -- Harrisonburg NC 3/1/6. FRO -- J. R. H., 1963.

SCOTT COUNTY  
(All reports by J. R. H., 1964-65)

ALLEY CAVE (#2) -- Clinchport NW 8/5/9. About 1000 ft. of stream passage. Mapped.

\*BOOHERS CAVE -- Blountville NC 4/5/9. A swallow hole entrance and about 250 to 300 ft. of passage.

\*CAVE RIDGE CAVE -- Blountville NW 6/?. A cave is reported in "Cave Ridge".

CLENDENEN CAVE -- Duffield C 5/2/2. Reported as UNNAMED CAVE at WC 6/6/9 in Caves of Virginia, p. 452. Cave is said to be small; not visited.

\*COX RAM PUMP CAVE -- Clinchport NW 6/1/6. Entrance in deep sink; explored short distance to belly crawl.

\*COX RIDGE CAVE -- East Stone Gap SC 5/9/7. About 1000 ft. of rather large, relatively dry passage; mapped.

\*CROSS FISSURE -- Blountville NW 6/5/8. A fissure; FRO.

FLANNERY CAVE -- Clinchport WC 2/3/2. Approximately 1.0 mile of stream passage explored and mapped.

\*FRANKLIN CAVE -- Clinchport NW 6/5/1. Reported to have stream and to possibly connect with Cox Ram Pump Cave. Not explored.

GRIGSBY CAVE and LITTLE GRIGSBY CAVE -- Relocated to Moll Creek SW 7/7/5 and SW 7/7/4, respectively. The former cave has only about 1000 ft. of passage.

\*HORTONS CAVE -- Looneys Gap NE 2/7/2. About 500 ft., partially with stream. Sketch mapped.

\*HORTONS DRY CAVE -- Clinchport NW 5/8/1. A small dry cave; not explored.

\*HORTONS PUMP CAVE -- Clinchport NW 5/7/3. Entrance visited but cave not explored. Reported to be small with stream.

JACK CAVE -- Clinchport EC 2/5/8. 1000 ft. of mostly walking passage with a small stream and waterfall.

\*KITCHEN CAVE -- Clinchport NW 6/4/2. A pit entrance with an estimated drop of 75 to 100 ft. Not explored.

REDCAT CAVE -- Looneys Gap. Corrected location is NE 1/8/9. Not explored.

\*ROADSIDE SHELTER CAVE -- East Stone Gap SC 8/3/3. Large rock shelter in limestone.

SPURLOCK CAVE -- Duffield NE 4/8/2. A significant cave with more than 3000 ft. of large passages; two levels, the lower of which is partially occupied by a stream. Survey in progress. -- J. R. H. and D. Finley, 1966.

WATKINS CAVE -- Clinchport SE 2/8/? . Originally called Watkins Indian Cave (see Caves of Virginia, p. 458). "Indian" should be removed from the cave's name since it is a misnomer. More closely located but not visited; owner says cave is small -- J. R. H., 1966.

#### SHENANDOAH COUNTY

\*SUTERS CAVE -- Strasburg NC 3/1/6. FRO -- J. R. H., 1963.

#### SMYTH COUNTY

BIG SINK CAVE -- Chatham Hill EC 6/?. Mapped by M. Hamilton.  
Map not in files.

DEAD AIR CAVE -- Cedar Springs SC 1/3/3. Mapped by R. E. Whittemore,  
VPI Grotto, map in files.

\*INTERSTATE 81 CAVE -- Marion C 5/4/3. A significant new cave with about 3000 feet of passage opened by highway construction. In process of being mapped by VPI Grotto. -- R. E. Whittemore, 1966.

\*LITTLE ROBERTS CAVE -- Atkins SE 5/8/5. FRO. -- J. R. H., 1962.

\*LOVERS LEAP CAVE -- Saltville SE 9/8/1. Sketched by Hamilton; no report filed to date.

MARBLE CAVE -- Chatham Hill SC 1/4/6. Mapped by Hamilton; map not in files.

\*RABBIT DEN CAVE -- Broadford SC 5/1/9. Located but not explored by Hamilton.

SALTVILLE QUARRY CAVE -- Chilhowie NW 4/6/7. About 700 ft., partially with stream. Mapped by Hamilton; map not in files.

SHEEP HOLE -- Chatham Hill SC 2/1/2. A pit with dead animals; not completely explored -- Anne Whittemore, VPI, 1965.

\*SPENCE CAVE #2 -- Chatham Hill C 4/5/1. New Cave ??. Unexplored.

TROUT POND CAVES (#'s 1 and 2) -- Chatham Hill EC 6/6/7. Pinpointed but not explored by Anne Whittemore, 1965.

\*WATERFALL PIT -- Chatham Hill SC 2/1/3. Mostly a shallow hole -- J.R.H., 1963.

\*WYRICKS CAVE -- Broadford SC 5/1/9. Located but not fully explored by Hamilton.

Three caves are reported, but not verified, on Milton Clarks Farm (Chatham Hill SW 3) by Anne Whittemore, 1965. A trash-filled cave entrance near the Burnop Cemetery is also reported.

#### TAZEWELL COUNTY

\*BOWENS CAVE -- Pounding Mill SW 9/1/3. Pit entrance and about 300 ft. of passage -- J. R. H., 1963.

\*BLASTED CAVE -- Richlands SE 5/5/? Small; opened by highway construction. -- W. J. Stephenson, 1963.

\*CANYON JUNIOR CAVE -- Broadford NC 1/4/8. FRO -- J. R. H., 1966.

CASSEL FARM CAVE -- Burkes Garden C 8/4/9. About 1500 ft. of semi-maze passage in two separate sections with 8 entrances. Entrance plot and sketch by G. Maryland, 1963 (in files). -- J. R. H., 1963.

CHIMNEY ROCK CAVE -- Pounding Mill SW 1/7/3. A new 1000 ft. extension discovered by VPI Grotto in 1966.

CROCKETTS CAVE -- Pounding Mill EC 9/7/1. Up to 600 ft. of stream passage -- R. E. Whittemore, VPI, 1966.

FALLEN ROCK CAVE -- Pounding Mill SW 9/8/1. Over 1000 ft. of stream passage explored, mostly by boat -- R. E. Whittemore, VPI, 1966.

\*GILLESPIE CLIFF CAVES -- Pounding Mill SC 4/5/1. Three small caves (FRO) -- R. E. Whittemore, VPI, 1966.

GILLESPIE WATER CAVE #1 -- Pounding Mill SW 7/5/6. Explored 400 ft. upstream and 600 ft. downstream by VPI Grotto in 1966.

GULLY CAVE -- Pounding Mill SC 4/5/3. Over 700 ft. of large passage explored by VPI Grotto in 1966.

HIGGINBOTHAMS #1 CAVE (Devils Slide) -- Pounding Mill SC 6/3/7. 3000 ft. of passage and a 140 ft. drop. Mapped by G. Marland and E. Bauer, VPI. See the "Higginbotham Project" by Bauer and Whittemore (Tech Troglodyte, v.4, n.2, 1966). Map in files.

HIGGINBOTHAMS #2 CAVE -- Pounding Mill SC 6/2/9. A large, deep cave which has not been completely explored. See reference, above (Bauer, 1966).

HUGH YOUNG CAVE -- Pounding Mill SW 9/2/6. About 700 ft. of relatively large stream passage ending in a siphon -- J. R. H., 1963.

\*LAWSONS CAVE -- Garden Mountain NC 2/5/5. A single stream passage of about 1300 ft. -- J. R. H., 1963.

LOST MILL #3 -- Pounding Mill SC 4/2/5. Explored with boat by Richard Beck and R. E. Whittemore, VPI, 1966. No significant passages.

\*MOSS CAVE #1 -- Garden Mountain NC 2/7/2. Small cave with tiny stream. -- J. R. H., 1963.

\*MOSS CAVES #'s 2 and 3 -- Garden Mountain Quad. Two other small caves are reported in vicinity of Lawsons and Moss No. 1 but are not confirmed -- J. R. H., 1963.

\*PUCKETTS CAVE -- Pounding Mill SC 6/3/2. FRO. -- R. E. Whittemore, VPI, 1965.

\*SHEEP CAVE -- Richlands SE 5/7/? . Reported by W. J. Stephenson; no other data.

STEELES CAVE -- Burkes Garden WC 4/7/2. Smaller than originally reported with only about 1500 ft. of passages. Mapped by R. E. Whittemore and VPI Grotto, 1966. Map in files.

THOMPSONS CANYON CAVES #'s 1 and 2 -- Broadford NC 1/4/8 and NC 1/5/7, respectively. Three small openings in No. 1 are FRO; the fourth entrance leads to about 300 ft. of dry passage. No. 2 has two entrances, both leading immediately to a siphon -- J. R. H., 1966.

\*THOMPSONS SEWER -- Pounding Mill SW 9/2/4. Storm sewer; FRO -- J. R.H., 1963

WARD COVE CAVE -- Broadford NW 3/8/8. Total of 3100 ft. of large passage. Mapped by R. E. Whittemore and VPI Grotto; map in files.

The following Tazewell County caves are synonyms and should be deleted: CROCKETTS STORE and LYNCHES are the same as CROCKETTS (see above). THOMPSONS #'s 1 and 2, and COVE SCHOOL are same as HUGH YOUNG CAVE (see above).

WASHINGTON COUNTY

CRIBB CAVE -- Hayter's Gap NE 1/9/7. About 3500 ft. surveyed by Ed Morgan, VPI, with more remaining.

WYTHE COUNTY  
(Reports by R. Gerling, VPI, 1965)

\*JACKSONS "'s 1 and 2 -- Max Meadows NC 1/4/2, and NC 1/6/2, respectively.  
FRO.

\*TOM BOYS CAVE -- Max Meadows NW 5/1/5. Small cave associated with a spring.

\*WATSONS CAVE -- Max Meadows NC 1/3/1. Up to 2000 ft. with a stream and much crawling.

Dr. John R. Holsinger

Submitted for publication June, 1966.

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TRIP REPORTS

EWING SALT PETER CAVE                    11/27/65                    by Bob Simonds

Personnel: John Schelleng, George Titcomb, Ackie Lloyd, and others.

Thanksgiving weekend, 1965, gave me the opportunity to do some work with the Virginia Cave Survey in Lee County, Virginia. Ed Bauer and I left Wednesday after classes in one very tightly packed Volkswagen for Pennington Gap, GHQ for that particular weekend. I caved with him on Thursday and Friday, but on Saturday we went our separate ways. I heard that he was going to cold and wet Surgener's Cave, but I had already had enough cold and wet caving for that weekend (Indian Cave) so I went to nice, warm, and dry Ewing Saltpeter.

To describe Ewing Saltpeter Cave (also known as Jones Salt-peter) in one or two words would be impossible, but three will suffice. It is basically just ONE HUGE ROOM. On visiting the cave, one can't help but get the impression that the hill in which the cave is located is just one big bubble. With a cave that big, and a hill that small, what else could it be?

The group entered the cave at about 10 A.M. The short entrance passage leads down into a room about 50' in diameter and a ceiling height of about 10'. From this entrance room, a walking passage leads straight ahead for about 100'. This passage enters the big room near the top, and a rope is needed for the descent to the floor.

From the entrance room, another passage leads off to the left. This duck-walk passage goes for about 100', coming out at the top of a wooden ladder. The ladder leads down into a small room, from which there are at least two passages leading to the large room. One passage enters the big room at the floor level under the first passage (the one that requires the rope) and the other one enters the big room along the left side at the floor level.

The floor of the huge room is mostly clay and dirt, but there are also a lot of rocks and pieces of break-down. At one point along the left side of the room, immense pieces of break-down form a series of small maze passages. At one point, the cave floor gives way to a large crater. This is about the most difficult part of an otherwise easy cave, and it requires a little climbing. There seem to be quite a few passages leading off from the room, but we made no effort to push them. There are very few formations in the cave; the ones that are around are mostly dried up and crumbly. All in all, Ewing Saltpeter is a very impressive cave from the standpoint of its size, and yet it is a very easy cave.

After John Schelleng took some measurements, and George Titcomb took some pictures, we headed out. After poking out in some small holes on the other side of the mountain, we headed back to Pennington Gap to tell of our adventures.

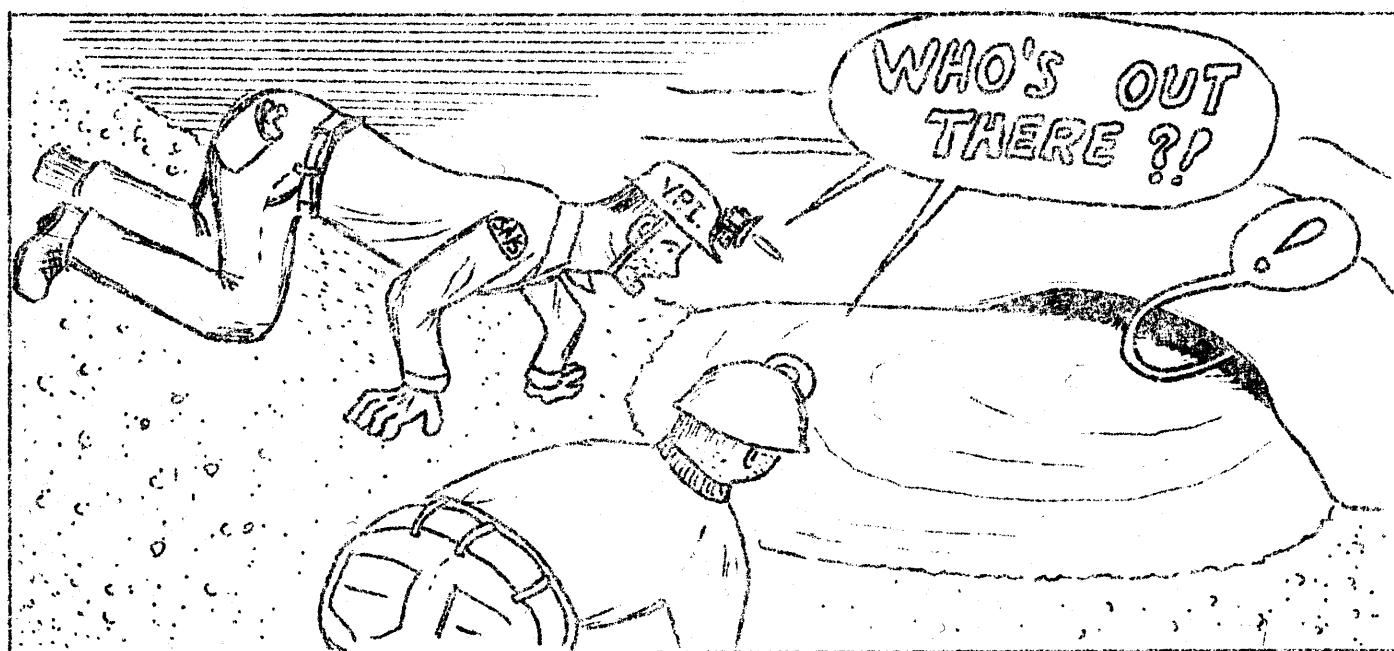
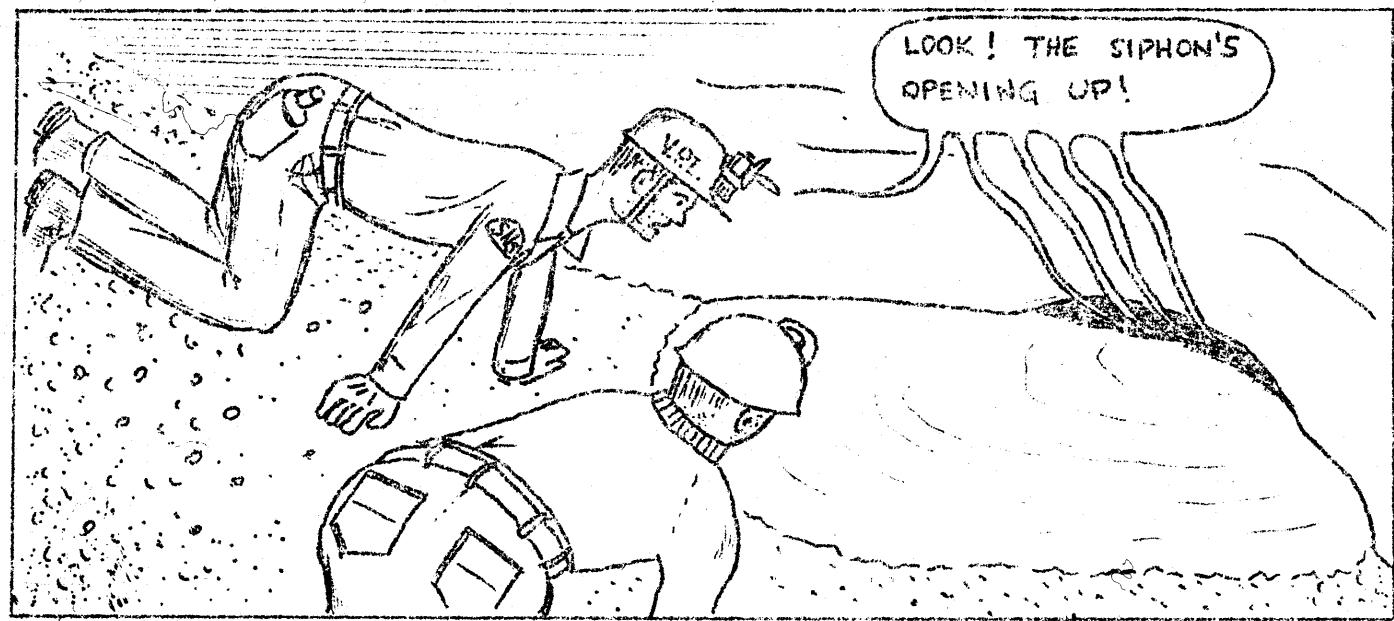
#### GIANT CAVERNS

by Bob Williams

Personel: Carol Noble, Joe Kreck, Glenn Davis, trip leader Dave Strope

Giant Caverns is a large cave in Giles County, near Narrows, Virginia. At one time, it was commercialized, but after the collapse of the commercial entrance it was deemed unsafe for normal people and was left to demented cavers. One now enters the cave by rappeling down a 70 foot sinkhole, the last 20 feet of which is free-fall. The cave contains about 1100 feet of passage, much of which is contained in one large room. This room measures 600 feet long by 120 feet wide by 40 feet high, and is thought to be the largest single room of any cave in this part of Virginia. The cave is very impressive in the variety and beauty of its formations. The scattered remains of wooden steps, evidence of the commercial use of the cave, was abundant. We approached the former entrance of the cave and found the ceiling to be of rotten clay which crumbled easily at one's touch. We returned to the sinkhole entrance, and with a VPI survey party which had come in after us, climbed and/or prussiked out.

Summary: Giant Caverns constitutes good practice for the caver just beginning his vertical work, as it is an easy rappel and prussik. It is also a good cave for cave photography, as its formations are both numerous and beautiful. It could aptly be called a "Sunday afternoon cave".



## LOWMOOR CAVE

by Glen Davis

Personnel: Al Armstrong, Dave Strope, Carole Noble, Tom Roehr, Glen Davis.

To get to Lowmoor Cave, take U.S. Route 460 towards Roanoke, then take U.S. Route 220 north to Clifton Forge. From Clifton Forge, take Interstate 64 west for four miles until you come to State Route 616. Turn left off of Route 616 into Lowmoor and then turn right at the first paved road. Drive on until you pass the town and then look for an old bridge on the right-hand side of the road. The cave entrance is about four hundred yards up and around the hill. The cave can also be entered through the quarry either by a one hundred foot vertical drop or by an old truck ramp. I suggest looking for the cave entrance as it is very easy to keep walking in circles when inside the quarry.

We left Blacksburg at 10:30 on Saturday, March 5th, ate lunch in Clifton Forge, and entered the cave at 1:30. When we first entered the cave it appeared to be a very wet cave. It turned out that the puddles and profuse dripping were unique to the entrance chamber. The rest of the cave was very dry, thus making the temperature seem much higher than it really was.

The half of the cave that we saw was entirely walking passage. The solutional form of these passages created a very interesting rock formation in which many interesting and beautiful photographs could be taken with different colored lights. The larger of these passages are actually long rooms, but this is not easily seen because of the formations which greatly limit one's ability to look straight down the room. This section of the cave, the upper section, is connected to the lower section by a vast maze chamber.

The lower section of the cave is the most beautiful because of the many calcite formations. Many of these high grade calcite formations are broken and crushed, and literally cover the floor. In the lower section of the cave, I am told, there is an extensive crawling passage that is completely covered with crushed calcite. This passage could be very grueling and painful if a person was not wearing heavy pants and shirt, as the broken calcite is very sharp and cannot be evaded.

After reaching the half way mark of the cave (where the crushed calcite crawl begins), we decided not to continue along the main passage and began to poke around in some of the many side passages. While doing this, Dave Strope found two hundred yards of virgin, chimney passage (undisturbed manganese dioxide deposits on the dirt walls indicated that the passage was virgin). After an hour and a half of sticking our heads into whatever looked like it might go somewhere, we started out. Instead of going out through

the underground quarry. This quarry has a ceiling about eighty feet in height and is supported by fifty-foot-in-diameter pillars. We got out of the cave at 9:30 and got back to Blacksburg, safe and almost sound, at 12:00 (Al, who was at the wheel, dozed off twice).

## CATAWBA MURDER HOLE

2/12/66

by Joe Kreck

Personnel: Carole Noble, Glen Davis, Bob Williams, Rick Keener, Joe Kreck

We arrived at the quarter mile path to the Murder Hole at about 4:30 in the afternoon. Stopping at Mr. Bell's house there on Route 600, we were told that the cave owner lived on the other side of the mountain. We checked two other houses on the other side and found one where the people felt they had the authority to let us enter the cave. I emphasize that permission was obtained.

It was cold and rainy. The path to the sink was under six inches of slush and my boots were wet before entering the cave.

Ropes were tested, drops rigged in acceptable fashion, and rappels were made first down the 120 foot incline to the cave entrance and, once in the cave, into a large room. The second drop was 65 feet vertical and had a flow of cold water down the lower 35 feet. Both rappels were made without incident.

The purpose of the trip was conservation, and a period of time was spent collecting trash into a large pile for removal at another time, and scrubbing writing off walls. At 10:00 it was decided that enough work was done and the prussik out should begin.

I was the first up the rope as I felt that I might be of assistance to the others to follow. Ten feet up I was completely drenched and my light had gone out. Trying to stop spinning and fix the light, the tip blew out and the flint was soaked. Spare parts were sent up the rope but it was too cold to work in the stream of ice water.

Rick Keener made it up after me. By this time my light was going and I decided to go back to the car for the dry clothing. From the time that my light first went out I had a growing suspicion that failure to get help might risk one of the party getting in serious condition from "exposure". We know that it has happened before and that at least one person has died from similar causes. Thus, I felt it was proper to call the rescue squad even though there was no person trapped or with injury: it seemed better to be safe than sorry later.

The rescuers arrived with ropes, lights, a generator, and other rescue apparatus. This was approximately 11:30 or 12:00. Every member of our party was capable of climbing out on his or

her own. We were all very cold and wet and the blankets provided by the rescue squad were appreciated.

Fortunately no one was hurt, no one caught pneumonia, and I haven't even heard of any colds. It makes the rescue look like a false alarm and is embarrassing at least to myself. It happened to be, however, better to be embarrassed that nothing happened, than to be sorry that something did and no help was available.

The lesson to be learned involves decisions made before we got out of the car. It seems apparent now that we should have:

- 1) had someone who knew the cave well, who would have advised against going down the lower drop with the cold water.
  - 2) known better than to go to a new cave on such a lousy day,
  - 3) in short, used better judgement.
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VPI CAVE CLUB FALL PROJECT  
or  
HOW WE FAILED TO COLLAPSE NEWBERRY - BANES

by Lane Goodall

Personnel :Mallory Hightower, John Smith, Richard Beck

We entered the cave at approximately 4:00 pm as a part of the Fall Quarter Cave Club Project. Due to the near position of Penley's Cave to Newberry - Bane, it was believed possible that the two caves may be made one system by blasting in the appropriate places. We had been given the possible sites to blast and were carrying sixteen sticks of dynamite to make good our threat.

The first position was located near the bottom of Bill's Rappell Canyon. We did not have enough rope to rappel, the 175 foot drop, so we had to look for the alternate route, the Devil's Staircase. We managed to find a small opening which we imagined to be the one that we were looking for. We descended and followed the passage but it did not terminate in the bottom of the 175 foot pit, so we returned. Some fellow members kindly showed us the proper point of descent. However we were too tired to do a proper job so we decided it was best to return to the surface. We chimneied out at approximately 2:00 a.m. Sunday, thoroughly enraged at not having been able to blow up anything.

Surveys prove - 99%  
more cavities with



Karst has been shown to be an effective decay incentive device when used in a solutionary program of erosion and irregular depressional wear

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