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Journal Price for non-members: 20p per issue. Postage 5p extra.

## **EDITORIAL**

Some people say that if you stay in the Wessex long enough then you go potty. Others, with the benefit of their superior intellectual wisdom, maintain that any organisation that exists into a phase that purports to be maturity will exhibit a peripheral deviationist syndrome. Well - there are two examples for you in this issue. The first one is beautifully simple - if you run out of caves you merely say - "Let there be Caves" - this is known as River Walking, and it features as an article. The other is more demanding and is conjured up by saying - "Let there be Caves, where there is plenty of headroom, the gradient profile is never greater than 1 in 50 and the floor is reasonably smooth" - this is known as Tunnel Gricing. But more anon within.

## CLUB NEWS

### Charterhouse Caving Committee permits

There has been some confusion recently as to which officer of the Club issues which type of Charterhouse Caving Committee permits,, There are two types of these permits; a three year one for Wessex members and a temporary one for guests of Wessex members. The temporary permit is usually valid for one or two days and is intended to cover a specific trip only. The officers to write to for these permits are:-

Three year permits for full members:- Dave Gordon, 3 Townsend, East Harptree, Bristol.

Temporary permits:- John Jones, 33A Dinam Street, Nantymoel, Glamorgan.

### Unpaid Subscriptions

Enclosed with this Journal is a list of members who have yet to pay their subscriptions for the Club Year 1972/73. Chasing unpaid subscriptions gives the Treasurers quite a lot of work, and so it would be of considerable help if members could deal with this 'necessary chore' sooner rather than later.

### New members

The following new members were elected at the Committee Meeting on January 7th:-

Nigel Hamilton, 'Moonrakers', Compton Martin, Somerset, BS18 6JP.

Roger Sabido, 1 Yeomans Close, Stoke Bishop, Bristol, BS9 1DH.

### Committee Meeting Abstracts

The 268th Committee Meeting was held at Upper Pitts on Sunday, January 7th. Apologies for absence were received from John Jones. The matters discussed included the following:-

1. The Assistant Secretary (Dave Gordon) reported that he had been in touch with all the school clubs that had been previously affiliated to the Wessex. To date only one club had completed all the paperwork and so were affiliated for the current club year. This club being Sidcot School Speleological Society. Dave Gordon was following up the other clubs and it was hoped that by the next meeting more clubs would be affiliated to the Wessex.
2. The 1973 A.G.M. was to be at Priddy Village Hall on Saturday, October 20th at 3.00 p.m. Various proposals for the 1973 Dinner were discussed and it was eventually agreed that a firm of outside caterers should be asked to do the Dinner. The venue of the Dinner was not decided but was to be left to the caterers providing that it was either on or near to the Mendips.
3. The progress at Upper Pitts was then discussed. John Ham was authorised to spend up to £50 to complete the shelving and panelling in the Library. Phil Davies was authorised to purchase shrubs which would be planted on the boundary with Mr. Gibbons land. These shrubs would eventually replace the existing fence. It was agreed to leave levelling the site until work had started on the new extension since the foundations for this would create a lot of disturbance of the site.
4. The list of clubs with whom we send Journals on an 'exchange' basis was then reviewed, A few minor amendments were made to this list. It was agreed that they would be requested to send 'exchange' journals to Upper Pitts. It was also agreed that the bulk of the Club Library

would be kept at Upper Pitts and authority was given to purchase binders to store journals etc.

5. The Club Handbook was discussed. This was now out of print and it was agreed that it should be reprinted. It was also agreed that this should be issued to all new members of the Club when they joined. The content of the Handbook was to be slightly revised to make it easier to up-date when this became necessary.

### MEETS

#### FRIDAY NIGHT CLUB

Friday February 23rd	St. Cuthberts
Friday March 9th	Swildons Shatter Series
Saturday March 24th	South Wales 9.30 a.m. at Penwyllt
Friday April 6th	Eastwater exchange verticals
Good Friday April 20th	Fairy Quarry
Friday May 4th	Swildons Round Trip via Troubles

Friday trips meet at 7.30

## QUERIES

by Heardian

Last year was one of queries children; first we had the querist Crusader Phillip (\*1) and then the querulous Black Knight (\*2). Could these queers be one and the same person? My quest this time is to unravel such mysteries and reveal to you the rare mansuetude of our NASA knights.

"Who first entered North Hill? This is to be my first task, and I do wish that I knew the answer to this penetrating query children. You see, it's very hard to know who can make such illustrious claims. I will try to explain why, so purge your little minds and make yourselves comfortable.

Let us quibble a little: by common usage, "who" can mean what, what sort or which person or persons. The first possibility is to take one name from a definite number of those involved. However, as this comes perilously close to choosing a leader, and the Wessex does not permit such perversions, we must dwell no longer on this line of argument. So, we are now confronted with the problem of the definite number; presumably, the list could be virtually indefinite if we go as far as including all whose contributions were indispensable. How about Edison and Nobel for a start?

We may now grapple with that seemingly crucial "first entered"; but, you've guessed, I suspect children, that this is not so simple with North Hill Swallet as it seems. Strictly speaking, you can only enter caves at their entrances, of course. Unfortunately a natural entrance was never found conclusively and two shafts were dug. Do we take the first or the second of these? Presumably, neither is of consequence anyway if our real concern is to record who got to the bottom end of the system first! You see, we must know where our ends are children. So, where is the end of the cave, you ask. Where indeed, must be the answer! After seven years of finding "ends", we must conclude that ends are whence you find them children.

To elucidate this queer state of affairs, and close this terrible tale, I quote the fateful words of no less a sage than William de Ceddra (\*3), "The Master's Cave is a fairly handsome canyon, only choked at a local levelling off". The date of this momentous end-finding (or is it just the beginning?) was 30th May, 1971; it being accomplished by Baron Benter, Sir Frederick Freefall and Sir James Nanofathom, suitably aided and abetted by Satanic and friend.

I now turn to the peevish attack by the self-styled Black Knight, whose murky title aptly derives from his infamous sacking of Black Moor. Thus, he cannot be the Crusader Phillip children. I now quote from the chronicles to distinguish the goodly knights from their villainous adversaries so mischievously championed by the Black Knight.

The Triumvirate (benevolent men of NASA)

Baron Benter: A kindly squire, yet much maligned as master martinet and droll dilettante by the Black Knight; a transparent subterfuge typical of the wicked Barabobath's propaganda.

Freefall: An inventive knight, being the first to escape bondage to inherit the Freedom of Gravity and pioneer vertical digging, upwards!

Nanofathom: Originally Nan O'Fathom from the Old English for a paternal person with welcoming outstretched arms: hence, its close derivatives Nanny and Father (take your pick!)

The Tripolice

(malevolent men of BARA) see note \*4

Barabobath:

Sinister fellow known as His Wickedness. Now commands the vast Republic of Boredoom including the ancient Principality of Benter.

Algol:

A dreadful machine personified as an innocent knight by Barabobath to cast spells upon his minions.

Big Willie:

Feared and cunning slave driver. Secretly knighted by Barabobath to seek out the mythical Table of Boredoom; Protector of the Reservoir and Pretender to Black Moor.

(\*) Footnotes

1. Wessex Journal 12, (140), 52
2. Wessex Journal 12, (144), 192 - 193
3. Wessex Journal 11, (139), 341
4. Tripolice is an appropriate corruption of “rotten stone” and must not be confused with the SKP of Secret Karst Police.

## SUMMER AT POUNDING POT

W.I. Stanton

In the spring of 1971 the Reservoir Hole diggers, as is their wont, left their underground retreat in search of warmth and sunshine. After an abortive week or two at Bedstead Swallet (the subject of a recent slanderous account in this Journal) they ended up in a field near the Miners' Arms. Here, only about 100 yards southwest of the old Wessex dig at Fairman's Folly, was a steep-sided depression 32' deep. In one side was a low cliff of Dolomitic Conglomerate, and solid rock projected through the turf at several points nearby. The depression floor was heaped with large blocks of Jurassic chert (Harptree Beds, residual from strata that once overlay the Dolomitic Conglomerate) that had probably been dumped there by past agriculturalists. Rumour had it that a draught had once been detected blowing through this ruckle. There was no sign that the depression was a miners' gruff.

We planned to make it a summer dig, abandoning it if it had not "gone" by the time the cold muddy winter evenings dictated a return to underground hibernation. Permission to dig was obtained from Mr. Bishop of Eaker Hill Farm, on condition that we first filled in and levelled off the squeezed-in shaft at Fairman's Folly, which was showing signs of collapse. This we did, and began work at the new site on May 26th.

We sank a pit 4' square against the cliff face, which sloped outwards for a few feet and then became almost vertical. It was coated with stal in places. When shoring became necessary we bolted together a square suspended frame of angle iron, clad on the outside with corrugated iron, that could be extended downwards indefinitely, 2' at a time. Drilling the heavy angle iron on site was difficult, and we found it best to measure up and prefabricate each new extension in the workshop. Eventually this frame reached a depth of 20', and it held up well, with minor deformations, for a year. Shoring operations occupied approximately two-thirds of total digging time, and progress was correspondingly slow.

Beneath the surface soil a thick coating of red-purple clay (decomposed Triassic marl) lay against the sloping part of the cliff, thinning out and pulling away downwards where it became vertical. The rest of the deposit was a jumble of boulders set in sticky grey clay. Most of the boulders including all the large ones, were of Harptree Beds; the remainder consisted of Dolomitic Conglomerate or of the red Triassic marl that is interbedded with it. The grey clay was noticeably smelly, containing rotted turf and bracken roots to a depth of 18', and some of the Harptree Beds boulders were coated with decaying moss. This appears to be evidence of collapse to at least 18' depth within the fairly recent past - say 100-400 years.

The grey clay contained a few dispersed bones and teeth, representing sheep or goat, ox, and pig. Also present in it were large numbers of fresh chips of Harptree Beds chert, without the thick brown patina of the unbroken boulders. This is presumably due to human activity before the collapse, possibly connected with the construction of buildings in the field a few yards north of the depression, the foundations of which are still visible. Similar chips occur in the soil near these buildings. Alternatively but not very likely, it is possible that miners, who were very active elsewhere in the field, dug an earlier shaft in the depression, smashing a few boulders in the process.

When the shaft was 22' deep we broke into a chamber formed by a flat overhang of the cliff. The overhang was 8' deep and 20' long; thus the chamber approached these dimensions with a maximum height of 5'. The back wall was the cliff descending vertically again, whereas the front wall was a steep slope of broken clay fragments that appeared to be working gradually downwards, as at Twin Titty Dig (this Journal [10](#) p 423), where actual evidence of slow movement is provided by dozens of fractured stal pillars. The chamber floor below the slope was flattish clay, with two small areas of cracking and subsidence. Empty snail shells and other material on roof and walls had apparently

floated there when the chamber had recently filled with water, presumably on July 10th 1968.

We sank a shaft in the clay (brownish-grey, less smelly, stony but no boulders) of the chamber floor in the largest subsidence area, finding that the cliff continued down vertically for at least 6', at which point the shaft became unstable. Bones and teeth of the same domestic animals as above were unearthed in this lower shaft.

The year was now well into October; the evenings were short and cold and the ground was getting damp. We had proved that the depression did not funnel down into a small cave passage, as we had hoped, but became a massive choked shaft that continued down almost vertically to an unknown depth. It was time to choose between abandoning the dig and embarking on a major engineering enterprise, and we opted for abandonment.

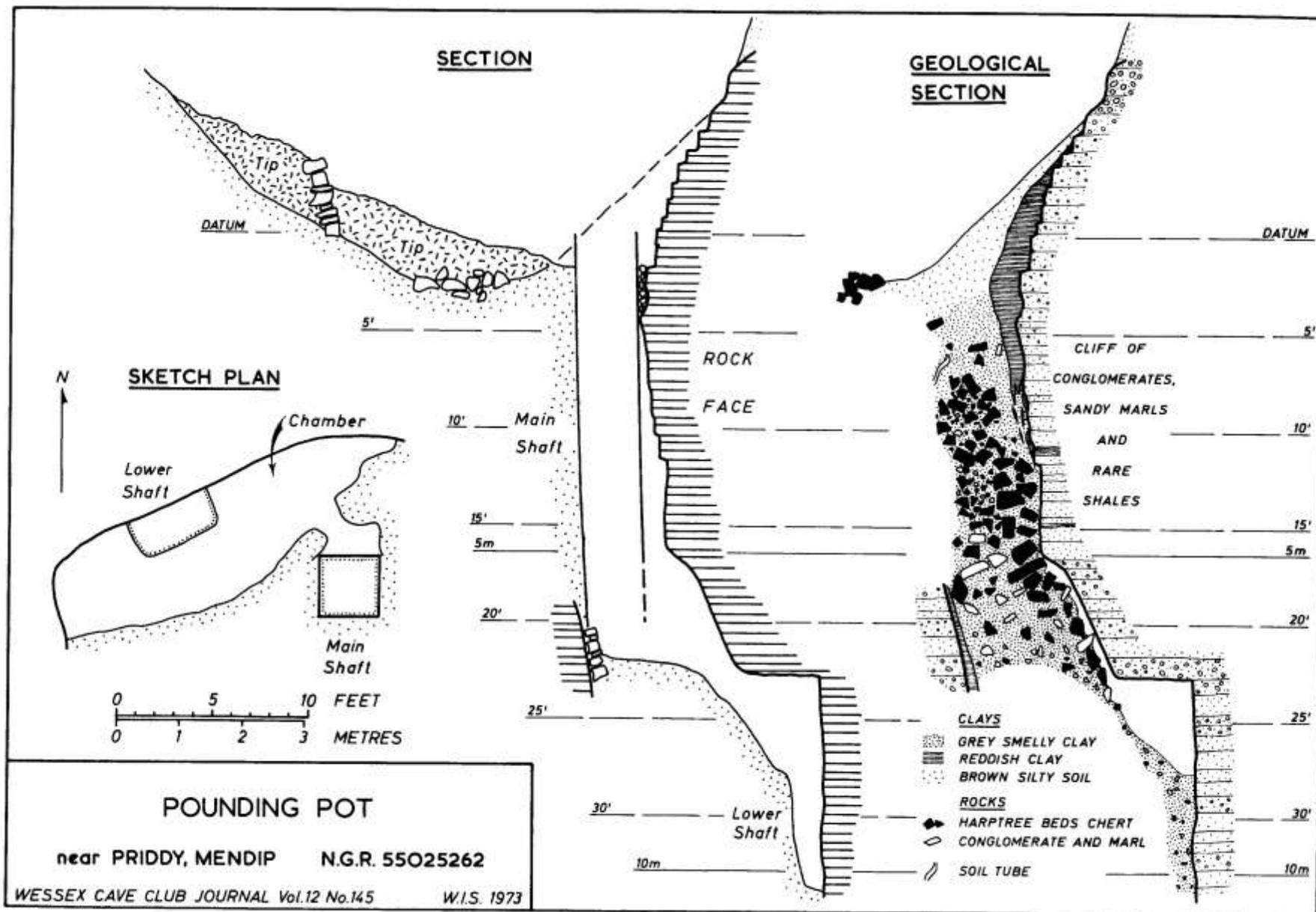
The shaft remained open through the following winter, spring and summer, until the diggers filled it in on August 27-28 1972.

As a result of this exercise, one may wonder if digging dry depressions in "Dolomitic Conglomerate" areas is a practical proposition. Whereas the solution of Carboniferous Limestone leaves very little residue, removal of the soluble carbonates from Triassic strata like those of Pounding Pot must leave something like half the mass behind as silt and clay. If there is no stream to wash this away, the passages are likely to stay largely plugged with choke material that has only slumped a few yards downhill since its formation.

Now as to the collapse evidence recorded above. Whilst the possibility of lead miners sinking a shaft in the depression cannot be ignored (Beaumont of Lamb Leer fame wrote in 1681; "...sometimes our Miners sinking in the bottom of these swallows, have found Oakes fifteen Fathom deep in the Earth".), no positive evidence of human agency, such as decayed timber showing, was found. Intermittent collapse of depression floors is both predictable and often observed - as at Nod's Pot, Hawthorn Hole, Bath Swallet, Vole Hole and many other sites. Natural collapse was suggested by the appearance of the contact between grey mud and red clay coating the southeastern rock wall 20' down: it was steep, smooth and sharp, evidently an important slip plane. Further, the distribution of boulders in the deposit was such as would result from the persistent subsidence of rocks dumped in the depression by farmers.

Throughout the dig a cynical eye was kept open for exotic Kellawaian ice-transported boulders. None was found.

The most persistent diggers at Pounding Pot were Alan Clarke (13 visits), Tom Davies (12), Will Edwards (19), Frank Reynolds (22), the writer (29), and Alan Trickey (9). Tom Davies identified the bones and teeth. The name of the dig, it may here be mentioned, derived from the activities of visiting heifers before the site was fenced.



## RIVER WALKING

being an account of an accountants deviousness

by your Friday Night correspondent

Howard Kenney started it all: He added to the Friday list:- "Do you know Burrington? Bring your wetsuit for an epic trip". So we did (one each that is). But whilst we were all wondering where on (or under) earth we would be going, Howard had an important visitor. A certain Mr. Irwin, who claims an authoritative knowledge of the area, was about to go to press with his new book (see Reviews in this Journal). "Howard, where is this new cave, and have I got time to survey it before the Spring?" Howard told all - and Mr. Irwin's musical friends may care to note that his only comment afterwards was "Most artful! "

Well - a large party turned up at East Twin Brook and we started the proceedings, in the pouring rain, by going down the named hole. After an exhausting trip, for some, Howard said "Come on then - its just up here".

Up hill we plodded following the brook bed, climbing up little cascades and fighting the lampreys all the way. Its quite tiring as the gradient is rather severe for us Fridayers. We found a spot where the stream sinks into a little hole and someone said, "Surely not down there!" Up still up until quite tired out we reached the point where the stream gully began on the hillside. Here, with a nerve of iron the boss said "That's it then chaps, that's river walking!" The next episode was even more thrilling. We had to reach West Twin Brook by following the uncharted contours through the bracken. Do you lift each leg in turn like a high trotting horse or do you walk swinging the legs sideways like a cross between a new entrant in the Navy and a Hollywood cowboy. I think that we did both and then in front of us, navigating by the lights of Newport and Cardiff, we heard a rushing mighty torrent. Down we plunged and slithered and reached the adit game for more. The intrepid ones went to the end whilst the trepid spent their time trying to block the door and keep us in. Well - what do you know?

The fun over lets consider the subject a bit more rationally. I'm sure that many of you have been on holiday somewhere, and have been impressed by some large torrent or other and have wished for a chance to leap in and test the current. I know several streams in Radnor Forest like this. The local rock is hard and produces some spectacular pools and drops. Some of these streams descend from hanging valleys and have a particularly steep gradient. (How about the one at Devil's Bridge in Wales). If the caves are becoming too crowded how about trying some of these. A fair amount of tackle would be needed for some, and maybe even roping up would be necessary. I can assure you that many of them would give very tiring trips. However, don't try them at night time - the local constabulary may mistake flashing lights on the hillside for "them cattle rustlers again". The more cynical among you may even suggest that one can progress from gully to ridge to face and become respectable climbers!

**CONFERENCE OF BRITISH CAVE RESCUE ORGANISATIONS**  
**AT SETTLE, AUTUMN 1972**

The following notes were abstracted from the report of the proceedings.

The need within the next 20 years for a full-time professional cave rescue organisation to meet an increase in caving activity, the necessity of controlling the numbers of volunteers on large-scale rescues, and the speed with which cavers devoured a running buffet at a civic reception in their honour, were among the highlights of a productive weekend conference of British cave rescue organisations at Settle.

Nearly 100 delegates from cave rescue organisations throughout the country took part in debates on the main problems of cave rescue work.

The need for better communications and the control of rescue personnel turning out for cave rescues were among the problems discussed by a panel of representatives from regional cave rescue organisations under the heading, "The boundaries of responsibility during cave rescues."

Settle C.R.O. Warden, Mr. J. Leach, considered that the police were always responsible during cave rescues and that rescue teams were working for them. Underground, the patient was the responsibility of the rescuers and when he reached the surface, the ambulance service took over.

Mr. H. Driver, warden of the Upper Wharfedale Fell Rescue Organisation, based at Grassington, said his team worked as an extension of the police. "We have a large responsibility towards the injured party but also towards the parents to make sure they are properly informed of what is going on," he said.

One of the most awkward and touchy situations in recent years had been crossing land to the scene of a rescue and it was imperative that teams worked closely in liaison with landowners and farmers. "They are a little cagey at the moment about the caving world and we must take the lead and show them we are doing our best even if some cavers are unfortunately not doing theirs," he explained.

"We are very responsible to the Press and must keep them fully informed," he added. "We have to be very careful that we do not upset them too much and that they get the right story. In turn we hope they will try to do their best to make sure the correct story gets out at the right time."

The problem of helpers and volunteers who came along and cluttered up the scene of a rescue was common to all, said Mr. Driver. This was probably through no fault of their own for they tried to do what they could, but these people must be controlled better than in the past.

Representing the Derbyshire Cave Rescue Organisation, Mr. W. Woodhouse was adamant that it was the duty of the police to keep parents informed. When the Press turned up on a rescue it was a matter of self-protection, he believed. The problem with landowners and farmers was not as great in Derbyshire, mainly because pothole entrances were usually close to roads.

The police were the responsible body in the area covered by the South Wales C.R.O., said their representative. There the C.R.O. operated a warden service. The chief warden saw to the needs of the people descending the pothole and talked to the Press.

The Devon C.R.O. delegate said that in their county, the police were responsible for communications and getting people to the scene of the rescue. Two controllers spoke to the Press. On Mendip (Somerset), however, the C.R.O. were very keen on giving the right story to the Press and putting themselves in a good light. Co-operation he believed, would give caving a better image to the public.

There was considerable discussion on the insurance of C.R.O. members and the cost of cave rescues. A Settle C.R.O. representative thought the Press could draw the attention to the public of the costs involved. If people realised the costs, there would be fewer rescues.

Mr. J. Plowes, of the Cave Rescue Council which had met that morning, said the Home Office would be approached regarding finance and insurance. The National Caving Association would be asked for its opinion and an attempt would be made to bring finance from national sources right through to the local rescue organisations.

Publicity regarding the costs of rescues would be detrimental to caving, considered a Lancaster member of the Settle C.R.O. The Derbyshire C.R.O. had tried this but did not achieve the desired results, and did not receive any money, as a result, explained their delegate.

Mr. B. Lyon, warden of the National Scout Caving Activity Centre at Whernside Manor, Dent, asked about the responsibility of cavers to the C.R.O. Some clubs subscribed to the organisation, others didn't bother.

He would like to see farmers reimbursed for damage to their property during and after rescues and he believed this to be the responsibility of the person being rescued. He thought clubs should be insured for these events.

Because more people had leisure hours in the country, and because potholers were always looking for new passages underground, it was inevitable that there would be a lengthy, laborious rescue from one of the "tight" potholes in due course, said Mr. C. Baker, of Grassington, chairman of the U.W.F.R.A. introducing the next topic, "The problem of rescue from tight holes".

Mr. M.H. Long, underground leader of the U.W.F.R.A. and a founder member of a committee set up by the C.R.O. and the U.W.F.R.A. to look into the problems of rescue from tight holes, said the committee was established following discoveries of large caves beyond the tight entrance passages to Pippikin Pot, Leck Fell, by members of the Ingleton-based Happy Wanderers Cave and Pothole Club.

"It is not just a question of what is tight, but of caves where it would be impossible to remove someone badly injured on a stretcher," he explained. "This could be a relatively simple cave."

Sub-committees had been formed to compile the names and addresses of people who could get down the "tight holes", to black list certain potholes, to look into methods of enlarging passages, to investigate hospitalisation underground and also radio location of suitable underground hospitalisation sites. He appealed to cavers discovering and exploring difficult potholes to give the rescue teams as much information about them as possible and to support the practices which were held.

John Buckley (Settle C.R.O.) explained various techniques that had been investigated to enlarge narrow cave passages or to drill shafts from the surface to reach a victim. These included a hand-operated drill developed by H.W.C.P.C. member John Russum, requiring no more motive power than John Russum himself, he explained.

Other methods included electric drills but problems of power supply limited their use underground. Fume clearance was a problem associated with blasting underground and there was much work to be done on this, and the use of explosives underground safely, which should only be used as a last resort.

Drills for primary blasting were available from local quarries and were capable of drilling either a small access hole to a specific location or one for ventilation. A five to six-inch diameter hole could

be drilled 200 feet in 24 hours.

Large shafts were only within the realms of a huge N.C.B. rig which took 12 hours to dismantle from whichever site in the country it might be situated, travelled only at 20 m.p.h. and took another 12 hours to set up again. Its subsidiary requirements, such as large lagoons for water to wash out the drilled rock, were tremendous. It was unlikely that it would be called except in the most dire circumstances.

Regarding hospitalisation, Dr. J. Frankland, of Lancaster, said it was, of course, the main intention to get the patient out of the pothole as soon as possible. It helped to talk and reassure the patient while he was underground, and his condition should be watched closely.

Rescuers had to assume that the patient was losing body heat and they should monitor his body temperature continuously. If his removal was going to be prolonged he should be changed into dry clothes, and be fully insulated. He referred to equipment developed in Edinburgh through which the patient breathed warmed-up oxygen.

The patient must be well fed and encouraged to eat and drink to help offset exposure or hypothermia. Regarding pain relief, he said that if the patient was so heavily drugged that he could not support himself, then rescue was all the more difficult. There was no need to use drugs in the case of fractures when the patient could be made comfortable by splinting. If there was pain however, it must be relieved by small doses of pain-killing drugs.

Rescuers should be careful when moving a patient along a crawl for if he vomited, asphyxia could easily occur. Equally important as drugs were warmth, first aid and reassurance. Stimulants and amphetamines should not be administered because they increased heat loss and the risk of exposure.

There was a risk of exposure among the rescuers themselves, continued Dr. Frankland. The time when a team should be renewed was when they started laughing and joking and slowed down the rescue operation. There was much room for improvement in the development of stretchers to meet different cave conditions.

If a caver got through a tight hole then he should be able to get back out, suggested the doctor. If it was not possible, did you send for the N.C.B. drilling rig or try to improve the caver's condition and force him out the way he came in? There was much to be said for the latter.

When a person was badly injured however, hospitalisation applied, bringing the resources of a hospital to the patient underground. Here it would be possible to transfuse him, administer drugs, give him oxygen, warm him up and generally improve his condition. The Northern teams possessed very comprehensive first aid kits for such emergencies, but it would be ideal if this procedure would never be needed at any time.

Some surprising and unique uses of polythene sheeting were explained in an afternoon session by cartoonist, Mr. J. Eyre, of Lancaster. The sheeting had been tried out successfully over underground waterfalls at the suggestion of a colleague from Ingleton, Mr. J. Pickup. It could be hung like a curtain to contain a waterfall. Not only could rescuers climb up and down a waterfall without getting wet, but the patient could also be slid up and down attached to a rope, quite easily.

The sheeting could also be stretched across an underground canal so that the patient could crawl across on his hands and knees without getting wet. It could be used for water diversion, either by deflecting water from a pothole entrance or preventing the water pumped out of a cave from running back into the system through nearby shakeholes.

It might be used on a traverse or even on tight passages to reduce the friction of a caver's clothing

on the walls.

Polythene could be used as shelters underground or ultimately, a method could be developed whereby a polythene tube might be stretched through a completely submerged passage, enabling someone to crawl through from one dry section to the other.

Mr. Eyre's suggestions were followed by a remarkable demonstration of a splinting technique developed by members of the Lancaster University Speleological Society. It consists of a polyurethane mixture which is poured into a sleeve over an injured limb. Within five minutes the mixture foams around the limb and sets hard. It had been successfully tried and had in fact been used to splint a sprained ankle on one cave rescue.

Sunday's proceedings dawned with the conspicuous absence from the proceedings of many delegates, which thinned out the gathering, but at least 50 turned up to debate the main problems of each respective team. Mr. B. Lyon representing the Settle C.R.O. believed his team's foremost problem was the number of potholes in its area. "Because of their vast number we can't have a contingency plan for each pothole," he remarked.

The area was thinly populated, he went on, and many calls of a fairly trivial nature were dealt with by people living in Settle or Ingleton. The dogs' work of bringing people down from surrounding fells was often undertaken by local people. In larger rescues, however, they had to call on outside teams.

Because there were many caves, potholers wanted to go caving and did not want to "play" at rescues, so there were not very good turnouts for practices. The potholes in the area were also subject to severe flooding. In addition to being a cave rescue organisation, the Settle C.R.O. was involved with fell rescue.

Summarising, Mr. Lyon said there were too many holes, too few people, cavers were too busy caving to practice, there were many severe systems and they were also called upon for fell rescue.

The Devon C.R.O. covered an area the size of the West Riding said their representative. Because there was no central area a callout might be received anywhere in the region. Getting hold of the rescuers was therefore their first problem. There were also many mines in the area and in Cornwall which were large and deep. Each club pooled its equipment for rescue purposes.

Mr. M.H. Long, on behalf of the U.W.F.R.A., said his team had no steady annual income apart from a fixed grant from the W.R.C.C. The landowner problem was also unresolved, for after some rescues, the potholes involved were closed down.

Large rescues also opened the door to well-intentioned people who suddenly descended from nowhere, continued Mr. Long. Many would not do anything anyway but they still turned up. He thought such people should await a call for assistance in order to assist the work of the controller. Such people might have to wait 24 hours or more, and without proper sleep in adequate accommodation, themselves became liabilities. The problem started usually when news of rescue went out over the radio. The people who then turned up without telephoning were those who created the problem.

The Forest of Dean rescue organisation's representative declared that their main problems were lack of finance, and knowledge of some cave systems. In order to encourage people to take part in a practice rescue, his team had "staged" an actual callout.

The S. Wales area contained a floating population of cavers and there seemed to be three separate rescue teams, two local and one comprised of visitors. There had not been a major rescue but if

there was there would undoubtedly be problems for each group thought it was solely responsible if it arrived at the scene of a rescue first. "I think a successful rescue team must be one that never gets called," he said.

There was room for three teams but people thought there was much prestige in cave rescue work. "The idea is to get the bloke out. It doesn't do anyone any good if someone withholds equipment because he thinks he is the only person who should use it," he concluded.

Mr. D. Allsop, controller of the Buxton team of the Derbyshire C.R.O., said his team had solved many of the problems which seemed to haunt the other organisations.

There was no point in calling out a team if there was one on the spot, but they would be called, from appropriate centres geographically, in the event of a major rescue. Mines were also a problem with 18,000 open shafts estimated to be within the teams' area. Local teams did co-operate, though many cavers would only practice with their own club. Equipment was housed at Buxton police station and there were no transport worries because most caves were at the roadside.

A Technical Projects Unit dealt with the scientific side of cave rescues and was well equipped. Money seemed to trickle in and maintain a healthy bank balance. Main sources were from grateful people and club memberships.

Within a 60-mile radius of the Peak District National Park was a third of the country's population. Caves were at roadsides and many callouts were to young people whose lights had gone out. Mr. Allsop thought that many people who were rescued, particularly university students and those from outdoor activities training centres, should be morally responsible to making a financial contribution to the rescue organisations. "Is it right," he asked, "in asking every caver to pay 50p towards cave rescue organisations when over the years he would probably spend £10 turning out on rescues?"

After a break for refreshments, provided throughout the proceedings by Settle C.R.O. Canteen girls Sally Lyndon and June Mitton, Mr. M. Watson, Settle C.R.O. treasurer, introduced two Belgians, Dimitri de Martynoff and Jean-Marcel Lejeune, who represented the International Rescue Commission. They brought with them a letter from the Commission's president, inviting British C.R.O.'s to appoint delegates of their bodies to the Commission.

The Belgians also demonstrated a filtrating pump which was capable of purifying one litre of water per minute. It could be used on any source of water, however polluted, and was demonstrated on a stagnant pond in the High School grounds.

Mr. J. Eyre, who sampled the purified pond water, was still fit enough to lead the final discussion on the future of the cave rescue organisations. "Local teams are under much pressure rescuing people and it is going to get worse and tie up more personnel as it increases," he declared. "Schools go caving, training centres send people down potholes and local education authorities encourage youngsters to go caving. In 10 to 20 years we will need a professional rescue team.

"The caves that are being found now are very hard and cavers are improving. We shall not be able to cope. What I would like to see is a professional rescue service on the same lines as the fire service."

Mr. Eyre thought the Army was the ideal service to provide such facilities. They had the equipment and finance, and trained by civilian cavers they could provide a large, safe rescue service. Under the increased pressure, existing C.R.O.s would have to stand-by permanently at weekends, he continued. Perhaps the Police could do the job. Other activities, like fell rescue work, increased the problem further. Alternatively, they could leave cave rescue to the clubs who would be responsible themselves for certain areas.

Mr. J. Needham, chairman of the Derbyshire C.R.O., agreed. In the Peak District people were already trampling parts of the National Park to death, and this was bound to lead to an increase in the number of accidents.

Financial aspects would make the increased burden too great he went on. In Derbyshire cave rescue might, like mountain rescue be taken over by the National Park.

Mr. J. Plowes was uncertain about the threatened influx of cavers. Settle C.R.O. secretary, Mr. Brian Boardman, of Giggleswick, pointed out that from the 1950s when there were two rescues a year, there were now about 28 calls a year, which did not include calls into the police station which eventually resulted in a callout. Neither did it include parties which were overdue from potholes.

Mr. N.H. Long thought more could be done in the way of preventive measures to attempt to stop the pressure before it expanded further. Information should be circulated to bring to the attention of novice cavers the inherent dangers in certain areas. Mr. Carlisle warned teams not to overlook the increased interest in exploring old mines.

Mr. Lyon agreed that C.R.O.s should concern themselves with accident prevention. The British Association of Caving Instructors had circulated education authorities regarding novice potholing parties. They were developing a caving code and if potholers adhered to it there was unlikely to be as many accidents. He thought the C.R.O.s should back the idea.

Mr. Allsop thought C.R.O.s should specialise in mines rescue before the demand arose.

Officially closing the conference, Dr. Hyslop thanked the speakers and all those who had taken part and helped to make the conference a success, praising in particular the efforts of Settle C.R.O. secretary, Brian Boardman, who had organised the two days' proceedings.

Among those taking part were representatives of rescue teams and caving clubs from the following areas: North Craven, Upper Wharfedale, Devon, Forest of Dean, South Wales, Derbyshire. Police representatives included the Chief Constable of the West Yorkshire Constabulary, Mr. Ronald Gregory, who opened the conference, Chief Superintendent S.C. Mogg, head of the Keighley Police Division, Insp. J.F. Cruickshank, head of Settle police, with representatives of the Lancashire and Cumbria police forces. The County Ambulance Service was represented along with the Lake District Mountain Accidents Panel, the National Caving Association and the International Rescue Commission.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

December 11th, 1972

### The Longest Cave in the World

Dear Sir,

Throughout the 1960s the Flint Ridge System in Mammoth Cave National Park, Kentucky, vied with the Holloch system in Switzerland for the title of 'longest cave in the world'. Each year the two groups would add a few more miles of passages to their respective mapped systems. First one edged ahead, then the other. Towards the end of the decade the Flint Ridge System began to gain a substantial lead.

Ten days ago the Mammoth Park officers issued a news release which will probably put Flint Ridge ahead of all competitors for a long time to come. It has been linked to Mammoth Cave. At time of writing, there are 90+ miles of mapped passages in Flint Ridge and 60 miles in Mammoth Cave for an aggregate of more than 150 miles of interconnected cave. Approximately 81 miles have been mapped in Holloch.

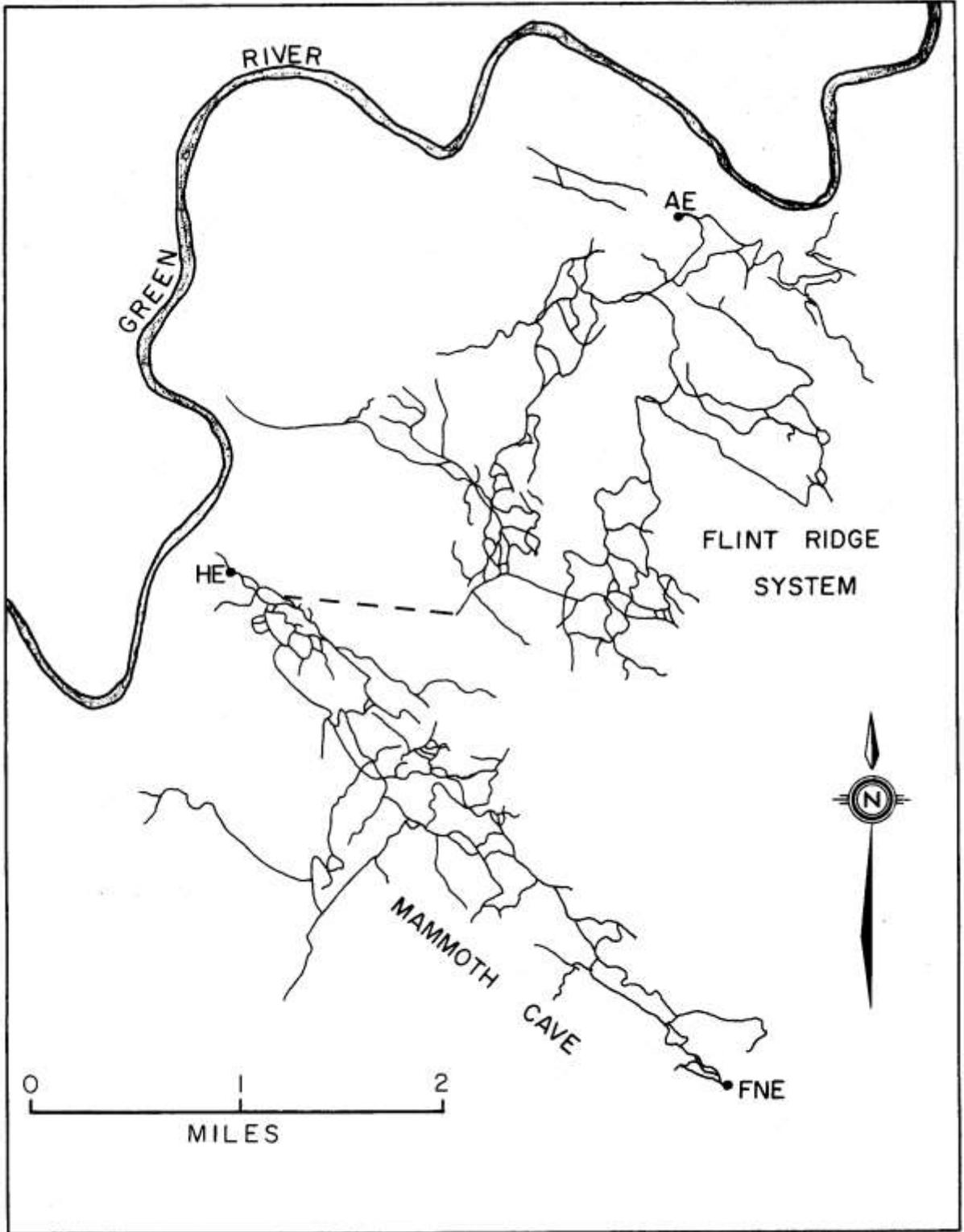
The link up is indicated by the dashed line in the figure. Mammoth Cave and the Flint Ridge System have developed under adjacent ridges separated by Eaton Valley, a karst valley. Each system comprises a complex mixture of fossil and stream galleries ranging from whoppers that you can run through to some of the world's most protracted crawls. For some years exploration had been focussed on the south portion of the Flint Ridge System where a damp piece of real estate called Candlelight River was pushed to crawls that passed beneath Eaton Valley. On September 9th of this year a six-man survey crew added another 5,000 feet of mapping there (they like to work in big numbers!). At the end of it the leader, John Wilcox, decided to recce ahead just a little bit and after a few hundred feet popped out of a hole within sight of the tourist boat dock in a long-commercialised part of Mammoth Cave.

The shortest through trip would start at the Austin Entrance of Flint Ridge, (AE), and exit at the Historic Entrance of Mammoth, (HE). Those who really like to get value for money underground could start at Mammoth's Frozen Niagara Entrance. Possibly it could be done in twelve hours, much of it spent running. The link sounds singularly unpleasant. When I was down there a couple of weeks ago I was informed that several hundred feet of it would be sumped. At best there is only a foot of airspace for long distances. A collectors' item.

The link-up marks the culmination of more than twenty years of effort by the Cave Research Foundation, an amateur body. As usual, this has meant a handful of enthusiastic individuals who have persevered in face of many disappointments. In the 1950s, different caves under Flint Ridge were explored from different entrances. In the 1960s they were linked together to form the System. Now in the 1970s the whole mass of spaghetti has been tied up. For the future? Well, there is another big ridge south of Mammoth, Joppa Ridge, which is starting to yield big passage. All along the east side of the map is something called the Sinkhole Plain, which has scarcely been touched as yet.

Yours sincerely,

Derek Ford,  
Department of Geography,  
McMaster University,  
Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.



19th December, 1972

Dear Mr. Kenney,

I should explain that the advertisement in The Railway Magazine is by way of being an exploratory one (for The Tunnel Gricing Society)...However, the initial response would seem to be quite encouraging....So far we have covered such major works as Birmingham Snow Hill, Catesby on the former Great Central and lesser tunnels such as Wheatley and Nottingham Mansfield Road....Whole weekend visits might be arranged to certain areas rich in tunnels, such as the Peak District....We forecast an eventual membership of around 350.

Name and address by application to Richard.

Ed. Well well! There's not a word about this sort of activity in the Settle Rescue Conference Report. Someone should tell our northern friends to add Blea Moor to their list of possible sites when a party goes missing. I intend keeping in touch as there are several points that intrigue me. First of all how do they intend getting legal access, for surely disused tunnels are still owned by BR and they would still have certain responsibilities. Do they intend climbing air shafts? For some of these are unlined and in fairly soft strata. Gricing I can't trace but Grising is related to the structure of arches - and yes you've guessed it - you've got to keep an eye on the roof above.

### REVIEWS

The Caves of Burrington B.E.C. Caving Report No. 17 Publishing date March 1st 1973 Price 40p + p & p. Available from The Belfry or Dave Irwin, Townsend Cottage, Priddy, Wells.

All caves in Burrington Combe, Burrington village and as far west as Reads Cavern are described. Surveys, all to CRG 5 or 6, are included and these show many caves not previously surveyed, such as Drunkards Hole, Pickford Farm Cave, Spider, Trats Crack, Johnny Nash, etc.. Resurveys of Rods, Sidcot, Foxes, etc.. Photographs, historical notes, hydrological flow diagram.

The booklet shows the relationship between all caves and surface features on a pull-out survey. Approx 32pp plus 4pp of photographs. Stiff card cover similar to "Vanishing Grottoes". Size A5 saddle stitched.

Only 350 copies to be printed.

D. I.

Mechanical Engineering: Railways by J.B. Snell  
Industrial Archaeology Series, General Editor L.T.C. Rolt. Longman 1971

In discussing the origins of colliery railways the author has this to say:- "Gray's Chorographia, an account of the lands and trades of Newcastle upon Tyne and Northumberland, published in 1649, mentions that one Master Beaumont, who commenced mining in Nottinghamshire in 1602 and around Newcastle in 1608, introduced 'many rare engines, not known in these parts; As . . . . Waggons with one horse to carry down Coales from the Pits' ".

"Our" Beaumont of Lamb Leer is described by Gough (The Mines of Mendip) as J. Beaumont junr., and he was writing to the Royal Society in the 1670's and 1680's.

I expect that there are several problems connected with caving that could be solved in the libraries and record offices. I wish that I had the time to see if there was a connection in this case.

R.R.K.

Bungonia Caves by R. Ellis et al. 230 + xii pages, 24 plates (8 in colour) 14 fig. + 45 pp of cave maps. pub. Sydney Speleological Society 1972 @ \$A6.50 post extra, (about £4 altogether).

From time to time cavers from England disappear to Australia, and fade from memory. Cavers not being noted as inveterate letter writers, it could be assumed that they succumb to the delights of Ice Cold Fosters and eternal sun, forget the underworld, and spend their days in idle luxury, bronzing on Bondei beach. However, it is more than likely that they have discovered that Australia is not just the vast expanse of sand, with a few sprawling towns on the coast that it is often purported to be, but a hive of speleological activity, in exciting, virtually unexplored regions such as Bungonia.

Bungonia to me, sounds like a neighbour of Ruritania, but in fact it is an area containing a fantastic limestone gorge some 50 miles NE of Canberra and the name was coined from a local word ("Bunganga") by William Bradbury who was granted a "ticket of occupation" on 4000 acres of land in the area in the year 1822. Although the limestone rocks were known in Bradbury's day it was not until 1824 that the first cave was entered and explored by a man called Cunningham. It is believed that this may have been Drum Cave. Exploration continued and interest in the area was maintained for in 1897 the first map of the area was produced. Today over 121 caves/entrances have been located and plotted. It may be noted here that English cavers have obviously had some influence on their Australian cousins for gradings are by the CRG system.

To one who has never been involved in the production of a club production, the magnitude of this undertaking will at once be appreciated, and the editorial committee have to be congratulated on the high professional standard maintained throughout the book.

The book maintains a serious note through the cave descriptions, surface and underground plans of the caves and the prospects for further discoveries and the descriptions of flora, fauna and bats of the area, but reading between the lines, it looks as if Australian speleology takes time off for a bit of the unconventional. One plate shows a priest celebrating mass in Mass Cave, a touch unknown outside Catholic countries, and the celebrants are caving in shorts! All the caves look pretty dry, with some deep ladder pitches, in fact the wettest person seems to be a cave diver. As will be gathered a lot of information may be culled from the excellent plates, many in colour.

This is a most exciting production and opens up a whole new concept in club publications and speleological literature. A great deal of time, effort, money and determination have gone into the finished product which provides an interesting introduction to Australian speleology. It is to be hoped that now that the Sydney Speleological Society have shown the way, cavers will do all they can to support them by investing in this publication.

As it is unique in Australian literature it is sure to be very popular in that country alone, so if you would like a copy of this limited edition send your order air mail to:

Sydney Speleological Society,  
P.O. Box 198,  
Broadway, N.S.W.,  
Australia 2007.

J.E.A.O.

KARST LANDFORMS. By Marjorie M. Sweeting. 362 pp. Illustrated. Macmillan. £15  
KARST. An introduction to systematic geomorphology. Volume 7. By J.N. Jennings. 252 pp.  
Illustrated. Australian National University Press. £4.20

The expansion of specialism has led to the virtual simultaneous publication of two books concerned with karst. Thus both can justifiably claim to be the 'first book in English on the landforms in limestone regions'. It is fitting that the authors of these two books are Dr. Sweeting and Professor Jennings who between them have done so much to foster limestone studies and whose cumulative experience of karst areas of the world is without rival. It is not surprising therefore, that the approach and presentation of the two accounts is similar.

Both fall firmly into the review category but in selecting this treatment the authors have rendered a considerable service to geomorphology. Traditionally the availability of karst literature has presented problems as many of the key papers are either written in central or eastern European languages or hidden away in obscure speleological journals; a combination of the two defeats all but the most indefatigable research worker. Limestone geomorphologists now have available two sources of reference and can, for example, discover exactly what Grund or Cvijic was trying to say or disentangle the subtle variations between 'Frichtkarren' and 'Regenrillenkarren'. Karst Landforms is the lengthier of the two texts and consequently the review aspects are more extensive while Karst follows the excellent standard already established by the systematic geomorphology series in producing reference works for sixth formers and university students.

Both authors are undoubtedly at their best in dealing with the descriptions of morphology at all scales of study. They also include welcome accounts of the fast growing literature on the geochemistry and hydrogeology of carbonate rocks. These specialized aspects are also treated in a descriptive rather than in an analytical fashion. Thus both Jennings and Sweeting have produced accounts that can be understood and read with profit by any geographer from the enthusiastic sixth former to the residents of our ivory towers.

In comparing these two important contributions to the geomorphological literature it would be invidious to attempt to rank them on academic content or significance. However if we compare the number of words, figures and plates of the two books in relation to price we find that Macmillans are asking more than twice the price of the ANU Press. If choose we must, on monetary grounds it is Jennings that will have the coveted place on the bookshelves of teachers and students whilst Sweeting will be limited to the catalogues of the more affluent institutional libraries. The price asked by the publishers has unfortunately predetermined this distribution.

D.I.S.

### FROM THE LOG

#### 5th November 1972 SWILDONS HOLE

Dave Yeandle and Pete Moody. Dave's light was fading by XII but we managed to get to Desolation Row where we found the bang had done its work. While Dave conserved his light I went on into the continuation. After several small inlets the passage got quite big 18" x 18". Unfortunately a gravel choke blocked the way on. About 150' of new passage. Back in XII Dave went into the flood bypass to place a charge and inadvertently passed the constriction into a nasty very tight rift. After a great deal of thrutching and swearing he managed to get back into the approach passage. We fired the charge just for the sake of Guy Fawkes and exited on only one light.

P.M.

### 11th-November SWILDONS HOLE

P. Moody, G. Pickford and R. Barnacott to Inlet Passage in Vicarage. This was to be a digging trip. However 20 mins digging showed that this passage is not a "go-er". We then went on to NW Stream Passage to inspect the big aven. It has a heavy spray in wet weather which will make the proposed climbing difficult.

G.P.

### 15th/20th/27th December 1972 SLUDGE PIT

R. & D. Gordon dam building assisted by R. Barnacott and P. Gordon.

### 28th December 1872 SWILDONS HOLE

Greg Pickford and Pete Moody to Desolation Row. Although no new passage was found it was a useful trip. We thoroughly examined the new stuff found on 5th November - provisionally called the Desperation Extension. The aven not looked at on above date became too tight after 6' and developed into a bedding plane 5" high. The downstream choke was scrutinized - it appears to open out again after about 6' but a few minutes digging, which showed the choke was of loose gravel about 5" thick above mud, convinced us it would be a very difficult dig because of the complete lack of stacking space. Another small side passage was investigated but it was badly choked with mud and holds little promise. We then began to make our way back to what had been the final chamber but Greg noticed that a small inlet stream appeared to disappear in the floor. After a bit of digging a gaping hole was revealed, the bottom of which could not be seen. As digging progressed more and more of the floor over which we had crawled disappeared. Unfortunately after the entrenching tool broke we had to give up. With three large boulders blocking the way on these should yield with the help of a lump hammer.

P.M.

## **FROM THE OLD LOGS**

### 25th June 1966 AUGUST HOLE

Giles, Gannicott, M. Holland and P. Jacobson. While Holland and Jacobson thrutched about in Longwood Giles and Gannicott continued with the dig in August. The results of last week's bang by Giles and Lloyd and today's earlier bang by Reynolds and Co were most impressive. In all we have made nearly a further 6ft of progress giving a total gain of about 12ft. The passage ahead remains the same as ever; about 1ft high and about 6" wide. We can see ahead for about 6ft but then the passage veers to the right and out of sight.

P.M.G.

### 50th July 1966 SWILDONS HOLE

Judy Bankes (SWETCC), Peter Cousins and Tim Atkinson to Pirate Chamber, Shatter Series. Cleared boulders from the upper right hand part of the choke. Rather dicey. Ended with 1 lb Polar Ammon blown against a thin screen of very dicey boulders beyond which was a small space. Whole business rather dangerous, much "gripping" over cut hands, carbide lamp, etc.. 7hrs.

### 3rd August 1966 HALFPENNY HOLE

Drew and Cornwell had visited this cave on 1-8-66. Sundays bang was quite successful, and another charge was laid. After some trouble with misfire this was unprimed, after which a boulder fall from one wall buried the charge. Mercifully, the largest boulders became jammed in the rift before reaching the bang. Today's trip included J. Cornwell, M. Thompson, B.Wallin, T. Atkinson and numerous onlookers. Dave Drew's charge could not be seen, but as the passage was blocked by the

fallen boulder (2ft x 2ft x 1ft), half a pound of plaster was applied and exploded. A quick look inside afterwards showed no sign of the boulder, only a large triangular hole!

T.A.

#### 4th August 1966 AUGUST HOLE

P. Kaye (UBSS) and T. Atkinson. Put 50g of fluorescein in Wet Way stream. It came through, clearly visible, in Tributary Passage, in ½ hr. No fluorescein visible in any of the small trickles coming into the main stream between Fault Chamber and Tributary Passage, Detector taken down but not used. 1½ lbs of plaster placed in Stream Sink. Good loud bang. Attempted to climb into passage visible 40-50ft up in Stream Passage. Open cave visible, but need a maypole due to looseness of stream fill. 3½hrs.

#### 5th August 1966 HALFPENNY HOLE

Bob Wallin, Jim Giles, Tim Atkinson with large numbers of spectators. Wednesdays bang had demolished the boulder blocking the passage, which narrows to a slot below an unstable pile of debris. A flake on the right prevented entry through the slot. 1¼ lbs of plaster was fired on this. The bang left after Mondays trip was recovered at last.

#### 6th August 1966 AUGUST HOLE

Giles, Atkinson, Bankes, F. Salt + 2 to August Hole with maypole and bang. 1½ lbs of bang placed at the end of the dig and successfully fired, after about an hour of dam building and debris removing. Next trip we intend to build a more permanent dam across the entrance to the dig to divert the stream wholly into Reynolds Passage. Following the digging we then returned to the Great Rift (August) and maypoled up to a large open passage some 40ft above stream level. Unfortunately we were unable to enter the passage as we could find no suitable footing for the maypole. Next trip we shall fit rawbolts in order to secure the maypoles. The maypole is still in the cave. During the trip Tim A dye tested the left hand inlet in the Wet Gallery and left three detectors as follows:- one on each waterfall in Stream Gallery and one on small inlet in Dry Gallery.

P.M.G.

#### 7th August 1966 HALFPENNY HOLE

Atkinson, Wallin, Cornwell, Tringham and spectators to Ha'penny Hole. The squeeze (visited also Sat night) was attacked with great vigour by Bob Wallin and after ½ hrs work with various implements entry was made by Bob into 25' of narrow passage - widening at the end (via tortuosa) but choked as well. After preliminary look round Bob started digging and I joined him. The squeeze is tight - so is the right angle bend, but it appears quite promising at the end. Spoil disposal is awkward. The draught noticed in the 1st squeeze is emitted from a 2" crack on the right as you descend. The whole cave is awkward and ends very disappointingly indeed.

#### 9th August 1966 AUGUST HOLE

Mike Norton, T. Atkinson on dye testing trip. Detectors in Stream Gallery, Dry Gallery replaced. 80gm Fluorescein placed in RH stream in Wet Gallery. 1lb bang placed in small crack on right of stream sink dig with aim of widening the passage. N.B. Lab tests on the sample from the LH stream in Wet Gallery, tested on 6-8-66, show that the stream discharges to both waterfall inlets in Stream Gallery, and the trickle entering from a fault on the left of Dry Gallery 100ft or so above the Stream Gallery junction.

#### 13th August 1966 AUGUST HOLE

P. Reynolds, A. Wicks, T. Atkinson. 1lb of plaster in bottom dig. Tuesday's bang did a great deal of damage, widening a 3ft length of passage by 4-6". Today's placed on RH wall where passage begins to narrow again. The way also requires widening 6ft from the crack at the far end, as a constriction there hampers the digger. Removing the floor would cure this and would not need bang.

### 21st August 1966 AUGUST HOLDS

Atkinson, Giles, B. Prewer, J. Booker, T. Meadon, Phil?, Albert?. Back to (a) dig at bottom (b) build dam in streamway at dig (c) fit rawlbolt to secure maypole (d) erect and climb maypole into super new series! Results of previous bangs quite satisfactory. It is now possible to get between 15 and 20ft into the dig now, but the end is still tight although the roof rises slightly, and the floor appears to drop incrementally. Today's bang was to remove a small shoulder of rock which fouled my digging elbow. The dam was constructed with cave mud normal cement and small stones. Whether it will set or not is doubtful but it certainly reduced the flow of water into the dig considerably. The rawlbolt was fixed in position and we climbed up into a sandy passage about 70ft long and 10-15ft wide. It ran parallel with the main stream - 40ft below in the Great Rift - and ascended fairly steeply. There was no sign of a way on - natch!

### 1st October 1966 EASTWATER

The Dolphin route was reopened - but not by the old route. The new route is into a steep sharp bedding plane leading down into Harris' Passage. P. Davies, D. Warburton, M. Millard, R. West. Trip not completed through lack of ladders.

### 50th October 1966 STOKE LANE

Dingle, Drew, Urwin + 3 maypoling in III & IV without much success. 25-30ft pole necessary. 100' - 150' of new passage found in III & IV all muddy and horrible.

D. Drew

### 12th November 1966 EASTWATER

Davies, Warburton, Giles - banging at the end of 380ft Way - much noise.

### 13th November 1966 EASTWATER

Davies, Giles, Drew. 3lbs of bang at the end of the 380ft Way.

### 26th November 1966 EASTWATER

Quick trip with Ian Jepson to place another bang at end of 380ft Way. Previous bang had been cleared by some kind person, revealing a change in passage direction.

### 26th November 1966 SWILDONS HOLE

P. Reynolds, L. Holland, D. Drew to Pirate Chamber. Last bang had shifted the small boulders around and way on can now be seen on the left and upwards but very tight and suicidally loose. 11lb charge set off - should stabilize the area. Quite promising. On the way out became enmeshed in an MRO call out hauling bodies up the 40'. Out somewhat flaked at 1 am. Much gripping back at Hillgrove when cooking started at 1.30 am.

### 27th November 1966 CUCKOO CLEEVES

D. Drew, R. West, T. Dingle, Third in the series of banging trips, this one to remove a boulder which greatly obstructs access to the terminal rift. Charge fired from 200ft away and produced a highly satisfying 'crump'.

D. Drew

### 3rd December 1966 SWILDONS HOLE

J. Banks, T. Atkinson to Pirate Chamber. Drew's bang very successful, much loose rock. Boulder bridge from floor to roof in centre of choke, with old dig on right, new hole on left. New hole and bridge still suicidally loose. Irresponsible idiot bachelor Atkinson cleared hole so that squeeze could be passed, through hole in boulders. Both put heads and shoulders through but too scared to try and get right through, as all boulders very loose and there is great risk of entombing oneself. Could see

all of a space 15' x 5' x 6' with solid rock roof sloping up at 70d. following a bedding plane, and boulders on all other walls, floor and roof. No way on apparent, and the boulders need stabilizing and the squeeze less unsafe before the next move can be planned. (Interesting that dip is 30 - 45d to S at N end of Pirate Chamber and 50 - 70d to N at S end).

#### 11th December 1966 EASTWATER

Warburton, Jepson and Davies to Eastwater with 2lbs of plaster and various pieces of timber to carry out bang, 380ft Way was left in a very smelly state, burning wood smell predominating over bang fumes. Previous plaster had removed a considerable amount of the left hand wall causing a partial blockage of sinking water and consequently backing up about 1 - 2ft.

#### 18th December 1966 EASTWATER

Davies and Jepson to 380ft Way. Shifted some 15 buckets of shingle and small rubble. Then bang. Afterwards to Heale Farm, Downhead to bang again. No results expected.

#### 7th January 1967 SWILDONS HOLE

D. Kemp, A. Thompson, I. Jepson, P. Bowler to Shatter Chamber. Intended to rendezvous with M. Jeanmaire + 2 entering via Streamway - Damp Link, Missed connection - self and Thompson exited while other two waited for sumpers. All out by midnight after nearly 9 hrs. Gloop and Grit Sumps took the sumpers 5 hrs to clear. First time this trip has been done.

I. Jepson

#### 19th April 1967 EASTWATER

P.D. and D.W. to 380' dig to do more work. Dumping in approach passage to Mortons Pot threatens to make it inaccessible soon. Getting less hopeful of this project.

P.D.

#### 8/9th April 1967 FAIRMANS FOLLY

Despite weather a good weekends work. However, helpers are required if the Club is to make a success of this project.

J.C.

#### 4th May 1967 EASTWATER

Tim Gilbert, Dave Alder, Phil Davies with tools to open the bottom of Mortons Pot. After about an hours work T.G. got to the bottom 14' and observed a 3' high passage going off to the left. By the time we had made it safe to enter this passage it was only 1' high and very wet. Suggest leaving it for "water treatment" for a while in the hope of clearing it somewhat.

#### 10th June 1967 NINE BARROWS SWALLET

John Cornwell, John Church, Henry Brown, Alan Thomas, Keith and Pete Franklin, Philip Coles and John Manchip (sic) entered an estimated 600' of virgin passage in this cave. Exploration and other work is continuing. Note:- parts of this cave are in a very loose and dangerous condition. Consequently work is in hand to gate the entrance, and keys will not be generally available until the system has been declared safe.

J.R.C.