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<u>Asst. Secretary:</u>	K. Barber, 4 Catsash, Shepton Mallet, Somerset, BA4 5EH.
<u>Hon. Treasurer:</u>	Mrs. P. Green, 12 Keyford Terrace, Frome, Somerset.
<u>Subs. Treasurer:</u>	A.E. Dingle, 32 Lillian Road, LONDON S.W. 13.
<u>Hut Warden:</u>	M.W. Dewdney-York, 19 Alfred Place, Cotham, Bristol.
<u>Journal Distribution:</u>	M. Hewins, 31 Badshot Park, Badshot Lea, Farnham, Surrey.
<u>Club Meets:</u>	Club Secretary or direct to Editor
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<u>Officer & Editor:</u>)	Somerset

CLUB NEWS

Club administration

With the start of a new Club year with new people in the various Club positions we again ask members to send any queries which they may have to the appropriate officer. This saves a great deal of time and trouble, and if a stamped addressed envelope is sent, it saves the Club a lot of postage over the year. On the following pages is a list of the Officers of the Club and a spare copy of this list has been included in the Journal for members to keep somewhere handy.

Readers and contributors should note that this is the last issue of Volume 11 of the Journal. Richard Kenney takes over with the February edition and material should reach him by January 10th.

Members are reminded that the annual subscriptions are due as from October 1st each year. A slip is enclosed with this Journal and it would be a great help if members could use this slip when sending their subscriptions to the Subscription Treasurer. During the past Club year some doubt has been expressed as to the accuracy of the addresses to which Journals are being sent. If any member knows that the Club is sending his (or her) Journal to the wrong address could they let either the Hon. Secretary or the Journal Distribution Manager know, preferably in writing. It is no use telling him at 10.55 on a Saturday in the Hunters since he might not remember the finer details of an address change at that time of night.

1972 A.G.M. and Dinner

The overall arrangements of the 1971 A.G.M. and Dinner were generally felt to have been satisfactory, in spite of the non-appearance of the Guest of Honour. The date for the 1972 A.G.M. and Dinner has been fixed for Saturday, October 21st, 1972. The A.G.M. being at 3.0 p.m. at Priddy Village Hall. The time and venue for the 1972 Dinner has not been finalised yet.

Hut Extension

The Committee have, as a result of the resolution at the A.G.M., appointed a sub-committee to obtain planning permission for the extension to Upper Pitts and to report back to the main Committee with details of costs etc. This sub-committee consists of: P. Davies (Chairman), T.E. Reynolds, W.J.R. Wilcocks and has power to co-opt other members as it considers necessary. If any member has any suggestions that he wishes to make about the construction of the extension his contribution would be gratefully received by the sub-committee.

Hut Fees and Subscriptions

At a recent Committee meeting the level of Hut Fees and subscriptions was considered in the light of the recommendations from the A.G.M. In view of the small surplus made on the Hut last year, the Hut fees have been increased by 50% to the following rates; Members - 15p a night, guests - 30p a night. In addition, a 'conscience box' is to be put in the changing area to collect cash due from people who change in the Hut or use the Club tackle. The Committee also

considered the level to which subscriptions would have to be raised in order to meet the increased costs which the Club is going to experience in the 70's. A rough and ready estimate showed that the subscriptions would have to be raised to between £2.00 and £2.50 p.a. from October 1st 1973 (the earliest date under the rules for which a subscription increase can take effect) to meet the present trends in rising costs which the Club is experiencing. If the subscriptions were raised to this level, it would be hoped that they could be held at that level for five years and so period subscriptions would be offered to members again.

T.E.R.

Club Activities

'The Friday Night Club' meets most Friday evenings for caving trips on Mendip. For more details write to: R.R. Kenney, Yennek, St. Marys Road, Meare, Glastonbury, Somerset. For the enthusiastic digger, NHASA meets every Wednesday night at Rock Swallet.

'Friday Night Caving'

Friday December 31st Priddy 7.30 Swildons to Sump 1.

Friday January 14th Upper Pitts 7.30 Eastwater exchange verticals trip.

Friday February 11th Priddy 7.30 Swildons North West Stream Passage.

Friday February 25th 7.45 Goatchurch and Sidcot.

Saturday March 11th South Wales. Names to Richard.

Friday March 24th 7.30 Meet lower down from Horseshoe Bend Long Hole and Great Oones Hole.

Friday April 7th Saltford Stone Mines. Names to Richard.

Friday April 21st 7.45 Coral Cave. Meet on Cross to Compton Bishop road at turning to Bourton Farm. 410549.

Richard Kenney.

Upper Pitts news

The lounge walls have just been painted and this gives the room a more cheerful aspect.

Ten ton of stone has been spread on the drive, and we hope that this will keep the puddles away for a spell.

More unfixed ladders

The anti-ladder virus has struck again, this time in St. Cuthberts. The ladders on Arete Pitch, over Waterfall Pitch in the Wire Rift and the one in Upper Mud Hall are still there, but those on the Upper and Lower Ledge Pitches have been removed and, even worse, the four rung ladder below Pillar Chamber has also gone. It is rumoured that Howard is purchasing this short one, and that he will fix it immediately inside the Swildons blockhouse for use in his latter years.

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE FOR 1971 - 1972

President:	F.W. Frost
Vice-Presidents:	M. Norbert Casteret, Rev. C.H.D. Cullingford, C.W. Harris, Com. P.B. Lawder, H. Murrell, Dr. E.K. Tratman, F.S. Wallis,.
Chairman:	J.D. Hanwell.
Hon. Secretary:	T.E. Reynolds.
Assist Secretary:	K.E. Barber.
Hon. Treasurer:	Mrs. P. Green.
Gear Curator:	W.J.R. Willcocks.
Committee:	P. Davies, A.E. Dingle, A.J. Green, J.H. Jones, I. Jepson, R.R. Kenney, R.A. Philpott, R.J.R. Vanderplank, M.W. Dewdney-York.
Auditor:	C.H. Kenney.
Trustees:	F.W. Frost, C.H. Kenney, P. Davies, J.D. Hanwell.

APPOINTMENTS AND DUTIES FOR 1971 - 1972

Members are strongly urged to direct queries to the appropriate person in the following list of appointments for the current Club year:-

- 1) Hon. Secretary: T.E. Reynolds, 2 Beaconsfield Road, Clifton, Bristol 8. Internal Club policy, liaison with other Clubs and outside organisation.
- 2) Hon. Asst. Sec: K.E. Barber, 4 Catsash, Shepton Mallet, Somerset. Access to controlled Mendip caves; keys and CCC permits. Applications for membership.
- 3) Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. P. Green, 12 Keyford Terrace, Frome, Som. Overall Club finances.
- 4) Subscriptions Treasurer: A. E. Dingle, 32 Lillian Road, London S.W.13. Payment of annual subscriptions.
- 5) Hut Warden: M.W. Dewdney-York, 19 Alfred Place, Cotham, Bristol 2. Hut accommodation and bookings.
- 6) Hut Administration Officer: R.R. Kenney, 'Yennek', St. Marys Road, Meare, Glastonbury, Somerset. Co-ordinating repairs and supplies for Upper Pitts.
- 7) Gear Curator: W.J.R. Wilcocks, 3 West View Drive, Twyford, Maintenance and construction of tackle.
- 8) Sales Services: I. Jepson, 7 Shelly Road, Beechen Cliff, Bath, Sales of Club stocks of ties, badges, carbide, nife lamp spares etc:
- 9) Journal Editor: R.R. Kenney, 'Yennek', St. Marys Road, Meare, Glastonbury, Somerset. Articles for publication in the Club Journal.
- 10) Journal Distributions: M. Hewins, 31 Badshot Park, Badshot Lea, Farhham, Surrey. Distribution of Journals.
- 11) Survey scheme and Publications sales: R.A. Philpott, 3 Kings Drive, Bishopstone, Bristol 7. Sale of Surveys and Occasional Publications.
- 12) Journal back Nos: P. Davies, 'Cophalls', West Hill, Wraxall, Bristol. Sale of Journal back numbers.



Pictures by
A.D.O

"HEADQUARTERS LOOKS A BIT OF A SLUM"

The A.G.M. of the Wessex Cave Club got under way 25 minutes late and with rain lashing the Village Hall, Priddy, (writes our Lobby Correspondent M.T. Vessels). Presenting his review of the Club during the year Frank Frost thanked those who were now leaving high office, including Don Thompson and Carl Pickstone. The latter was referred to as "a fresh northerly wind" which had blown through the Club's activities and removed a few cobwebs. He described the discovery at Rhino Rift as outstanding. The Club had a great responsibility for the care of the Mendip landscape and its conservation. More particularly it had responsibility for a plot called Upper Pitts, its own H.Q., where there should be a friendly welcome for all. Here the President had touched the major issue of the Meeting - that of maintenance at the H.Q.

Whether you believe in Human Zoos and Naked Apes or not, few will argue that the formation and continuation of Clubs, together with the meetings of same, are a spectacle for some reflection. The Meeting in question knew, to a man, that it would have to be bribed to get its finger out and mend some windows at Upper Pitts. The pace of life seems too hot to produce the good, honest slogger these days - there was even talk of PAYING somebody to do simple jobs at the H.Q. Everyone had good ideas, although some were disconsolate to the point of anger. More than once those champion smooth-tongues, Jim Hanwell and Howard Kenney came to the rescue. There was certainly an air of pessimism about the Club's future, which Frank Frost intervened to try and remove but even he was forced to remark on the slummy appearance of a building which many people put much time, effort, money (and not a little faith in the Wessex) into building. As well as being sparked off by Carl Pickstone's Secretary's Report, in which he called for decisive action on maintenance, the issue came up in the discussion of a garage-sized extension to hold kit. Howard Kenney was adamant that the new Committee should prove itself able to do, or get done, enough improving work to the existing accommodation to justify further work on building. It was decided that the application for planning permission would give them enough breathing space to show their concern. They were advised to look at the Hut Rules to see if a more Youth-Hostel type attitude could not be instilled by legislation.

The H.Q.'s deterioration, at whatever rate, also drew forth a resolution that the new Committee ought to raise the fees for residence at Upper Pitts, make Membership financially worthwhile in this direction and charge for merely changing (or at least making tea). Membership fees will also have to be raised when we meet again in 1972. Again, not unconnected with the H.Q., was Chris Hawkes' dilemma about whether to take the Club Library to his new house or put it in 'The Library' at Upper Pitts (now largely used for kit!). In the end Keith Barber, a professional, said that the Somerset County Library service would house the collection at Wells and bind it into the bargain. This should be investigated by the new Committee.

Turning to lighter matters, a Publications Fund was set up after favourable reports on the sales side of the Occasional Publications.

Although sales effort is still required there seems no doubt that the series will break even and the stocks held do represent a profit. The job of Auditor swung back to Howard Kenney, Tim Reynolds moving on to Hon. Sec., claiming that an Hon. Auditor cannot function as a member of

the Committee, however loosely. No further movements had been made by Howard on behalf of the Council of Southern Caving Clubs to form a Limited Company. A Press story about buying caves had been successfully stopped.

After the blood-letting at Priddy, the breaking of bread (and its launching) at Frome reassured those to whom gloom was evident. Howard Kenney completed his very vocal day by giving a most amusing speech on how to get invited to a dinner, this in place of Bob Leaky who was marooned by car repairs in the North. With such stalwarts there can be little doubt about the future of the Wessex and after the repairs at Upper Pitts why shouldn't the sun shine again? Perhaps the most important thing, whatever happens, is, as Frank Frost said, the friendly welcome at the door. In the end it is the atmosphere of the place which will preserve it, not the paint, nor the rules, nor the fees.

* * * * *

The Daily Telegraph Thursday October 21st

A French potholer, Michel Siffre, left Paris yesterday for Texas to spend six months alone in a cave 200ft underground to find out how man reacts to living a 48-hour day - 36 hours of activity and 12 of sleep.

The experiment, supported by the French Defence Ministry, the United States Cave Research Foundation, and the French Caving Institute, could be of military and space interest. M. Siffre, who spent two months in an Alpine cavern in 1962, will live in a tent-laboratory, 20ft in diameter. His reactions will be monitored by electronic equipment.

* * * * *

The Daily Telegraph Tuesday September 8th

Bob Addis, 25, a Vietnam war veteran, was perched on top of a 30ft stalagmite in the Lost World cavern in West Virginia yesterday - trying to set up a new world record for sitting on top of a stalagmite.

Addis, who claims the present record is 7 days 23½ hours, was installed on a rough platform with an awning to prevent water dripping on him, and was adamant that he was comfortable. Food was passed to him by rope and bucket.

A LOOK BEFORE THE LEAP

by "Heardian"

Christmas is here once more children. What have you done this past year? Have you shown resolve like our heroes at North Hill, been resourceful like Big Willie or just downright wicked like Barabobath? I must tell you about their deeds before you make next year's resolutions.

Mike, Jim and Freddie with their happy helpers have been rewarded at last! Even Satan himself was on their side. Now, you have heard that seven is a magic number children; well, in exactly seven years our friends have found the hidden course of the little brook beneath the hill. It's seven hundred feet long too! Legend now has it that one day Mike was visited by Old Nick who tempted him to come and see what his fiery wrath had wrought upon the nasty little crack which had so nearly trapped poor Freddie. Soon, all our friends were excitedly exploring the elusive secrets of their little brook. They were breathless. Wouldn't you be, after seven years hard, children?!

Like all good people they wanted to share their happiness, particularly with Big Willie for whom they felt very sorry, despite his waywardness. You see children, Big Willie had not found anything of his own for a long time and everyone knew that he was under the spell of Barabobath. They say that Barabobath and his robot Sir Algol had got Big Willie digging lots of little holes through nasty soft rock in search of the mythical Table. Still, this might as well be piez in the sky for all I know. Anyway, even Big Willie was breathless when he saw what our friends had found. Of course, he pretended that it was caused by the nasty air and not excitement. But we know better, don't we, because the twisty way is really very 'airy.

Now Big Willie has started flying kites. Some say it is because of the name of the new castle he captured to protect himself from the cheeky little elf who has had the gall to find a way back from banishment in Fordlandia. But we know better don't we! He has prophesied terrible things throughout the land. He says that nasty goblins will come and gobble up all the pretty hills before long unless they join into one big circle to find that mythical Table. This may all sound silly like it did to Henery the lyrical swineherd. In fact in fanciful, flowing, forthright phrases Henery told Big Willie so. The tale goes that Big Willie fled on finding the forbidden pipe rather than the Table.

But Big Willie is resourceful, children. He keeps trying. Using dreadful potions of apple juice to attract helpers, he started digging yet another hole. Passing wayfarers tell of weird happenings there: sometimes the hole appeared big then, when you saw it again, it had become very tiny. What Big Willie did not realise was that Barabobath, disguised as the mad but harmless scientist Morticelock Wheelbrace, had actually bewitched the weather and made it rain all the summer. Big Willie's hole kept being washed in so that he had to leave that too. Rain to Barabobath is like fresh blood to vampires. I wonder whether he cast his spell over that other geologist Geo. Getaway who has told a fantastic fairy story about the hills being covered by ice ever so long ago?

It's such a good thing that Mike, Jim, Freddie and friends are strong enough to resist sinister spells isn't it. Next Christmas they might even stage a pantomime called "Mendip under Ice" starring that accomplished winter sportsman, known to holidaymakers and the Jet Set as Daring David. Mike will play the Baron, Jim the principal boy and Freddie Buttons. Guess who will be the resourceful Widow Twanky?

Next year will be very exciting children

'SCIENTISTS PROD THE SCARS OF GLACIERS'

..... that's how the 'Times' reported the field meeting held recently by the Commission on Karst Erosion in Oxford, Settle and in Ireland. Some readers will find it hard to believe that there could be a 'Commission' on Karst Erosion; such things are best reserved for Third London Airports, Obscene Publications and the like. But the word has virtually the same- meaning in most languages and so the International Union of Speleology chose it for their various study groups, which meet once or twice between these International Congresses of Speleology held every four years.

One can hardly imagine many people getting together to discuss the rate of lowering of a lump of limestone without some prospect of a good time in store too. And so it always is - when speleologists meet for lectures the atmosphere is charitable and informal. The spires of Oxford (which must also be eroded at a phenomenal rate) looked down upon some delegates during the first half of the week. Discussion soon centred upon the relative size of the Mendip Hills, since most British papers contained reference to them. The foreign visitors could not understand why they appeared as but a dot on the map, "ven zee Yorkshire und zee Sud Vales ees so beeg". Dr. Marjorie Sweeting obviously had some difficulty in remaining tactful on the issue and the Karst Police certainly didn't, thumping the rostrum, or the dinner table at the slightest mention of the magic word 'Mendip'. However, it was clear that Yorkshire has, at last, an advocate in the scientific camp - Tony Waltham, whose recent papers on the caves of the Ingleborough district have shown the combination of the usual Yorkshire sporting vigour and a capacity for observation known only to the scientific geologist. Dr. Sweeting has studied, and is currently studying, the morphology of the Yorkshire karst and it was with some relief that the party embarked on a coach ride northwards for the second part of the meeting.

Glorious sunshine prevailed throughout the three days and it seemed almost shameful to enter Whitescar and Ingleborough Caves for the purpose of detailed arguments, in five languages, about what to call a "gour pool" or a "helictite". Full marks to the American delegates who refused to be drawn into conversation on how much bigger Flint Ridge was, being far more interested in two hedgehogs found on the way up to Gaping Ghill. The evenings in Settle seemed one never-ending journey to and from the bar, with occasional interruptions for lectures and a reshewing of Sid Perou's film on 'The Lost River of Gaping Gill'. It was here that, at a reception given by the Settle U.D.C., Dr. Sweeting was surrounded by gentlemen from the Press and the report reached the 'Times'. We were, said the 'Times', "tramping and prodding around lonely

clints and outcrops". "You can see we are not muddy potholers", said Dr. Sweeting, who had obviously not seen Drew's best shirt, and went on to talk of the practical advice we could give on the topic of water resources. It was at about this time that Tony Waltham and the Karst Police thought what a good idea it would be to introduce Lycopodium to some of Yorkshire's major swallets and began to enquire, about what the applied value of such work would be to the locals.

After yet another sunny day around Malham and a further one nearer Morecambe Bay the party was received at the University of Lancaster. Their Department of Environmental Sciences is, with East Anglia, one of the most forward-looking earth science set-ups in Britain and clearly impressed the visitors. Dick Glover has sparked off a lot of interest in Speleology there and the U. Lincs Club have done some good work already.

It is hard to credit the Emerald Isle with continuous sunny weather in its caving areas but these were the prevailing conditions for the last part of the Commission's excursion. The distances involved made affairs a little more rushed than in Yorkshire but the impression gained by our guests could not have been more favourable. In all a very useful boost for British Speleology which will now perhaps present a more unified front!

M.D.N.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

21 Clifton Hill,
EXETER, Devon.
10.10.71

Dear Sir,

Keith Barber's comments in the latest Journal on the behaviour of cavers are well confirmed by observations made on Mendip last weekend.

On Saturday, October 2nd., between 1600 and 1900, two companions and I visited Longwood-August, using the Wessex key. We found two fresh deposits of spent carbide, one on the climb from the Great Chamber into Longwood Series, the other near the 10-foot verticals. It is true that the former will be washed away in very wet weather, but this may not be for many weeks. As far as we knew, only one other party was in the cave at the time. Although we did not meet them we did make verbal contact twice and suspected their guilt. Perhaps key-holders would like to question their clients of that weekend.

On Sunday, October 3rd., we visited Stoke Lane and were disgusted by the extensive spillage of spent carbide in Bone Chamber and the Throne Room. Not all of this was present when I visited the cave in March. How long before Princess' Grotto is defiled? I once believed that vandals and litter-louts baulked at sumps. Alas, this is not so!

Yours etc., J.M. Darville

East View,
West Horrington,
Wells, Som.
8th October, 71

The Editor,

Ex-Fire Service Nife-Cells

I should like to bring to the attention of all those members who recently purchased ex-Fire Service Nife Cells from the club, that these cells are not the same as the ex-National Coal Board Nife Cells, Type N.C. 113 C, that are in wide use on Mendip - and members using them may experience trouble when replacing the main bulbs.

This new batch of cells is in fact the Nife Hydrogen Cap Lamp and they differ slightly in the construction of the lid and type of main bulb they use although the battery parts of the two types are identical. The Hydrogen Cap Lamp uses a 2.75 volts, 1.0 Amp. main bulb instead of the 3.6 volts, 1.0 Amp. bulb found in the N.C. 113C. In order to use the 3.6 volt battery with a 2.75 volt bulb the manufacturers have incorporated a resistor, which is located beneath the removable name plate on the side of the lid.

The problem arises over the replacement of the 2.75 volt bulb. It is almost certain that replacements will be unobtainable and most people will be forced to use the more readily available 3.6 volt bulb, which of course will lead to a reduced light output.

To overcome this it is merely necessary to "short out" the resistor when replacing the 2.75 volt bulb by a 3.6 volt bulb. This may be done by placing a wire link across the resistor terminals which are located on the side of the lid each having a strip of metal attached to it by means of a 6 BA nut and washer. The wire link may be placed under the washers. Removal of the resistor is then un-necessary.

Yours faithfully,

B. E. Prewer.

* * * * *

THE SEASON'S GREETINGS

to Wessex Members and to our other readers.

Please note that from 1.1.72 the Editor of
this Journal will be Richard Kenney. All
material and correspondence, please, to:

'Yennek', St.Marys Road, Meare, Glastonbury, Som.

* * * * *

NORTH HILL SWALLET: THE SURVEYOR'S TALE

William de Ceddra

Oh! joyously do I recall that happy evening at young Roger's Inn, when my good master Squire Benter, and his faithful knights Sir James and Sir Frederick, clapt me on the back, sending my simple apple drink coursing down my front, and bade me bestir myself and hie me with all speed to that wondrous cavern that they had lately delved under the dark shadow of North Hill, there to chart its labyrinthine recesses and set them out on parchment for all to see, and marvel.

And indeed 'tis my earnest wish that the fruit of my simple labours, herewith display'd, will find favour in their sight; and if it do not, 'tis no fault of theirs, for oh! they did accompany me into the cavern and wherever I did journey therein, aiding and assisting me and forcing me on, and if anon their speech was harsh and rude, then 'twas no worse than the saintliest of knights would utter in that place, such is its nature. And when through great toil and lack of vittles I was faint, and sought to leave that place, my lords would not, but shamed me by their faith and devotion to their mighty task.

So we toiled on, in sweet air and in foul (for e'en the finest flint and steel can strike no spark in the lower regions of that dread Kingdom, where noxious liquors do ever drip and fret th'impending rocks, and numbing treacherous vapours, distilling from them, steal from the aether its life-supporting spirit), until four days had passed, and all was done.

Then did I travel to that great Authority where the Lord Barabobath doth prevail, and there did I beseech his subtil knight Sir Algol to set my poor scribblings in his magic engine, and lo! within the twinkling of, an eye they were transformed into prodigious lines and rows of numbers, marvellous to behold. Loud were my grateful cries, and rejoicing. I sped home to my humble croft, where nightly did I employ quill and rule, by flickering candle, and, when that was spent, by Dian's orb, to 'grave my chart, which now in this renowned Journal doth first see the light of day, by my good master's wish.

And now methinks my tale is told, and I must no longer speak my heart, but must explain my labours in the secret language of my trade, though strange, alas, be its words, and confusing withal, and for this I crave forgiveness.

1. The Survey

The instruments used were an oil-filled prismatic compass graduated in degrees, a Fibron tape 100' long graduated in feet and tenths, and an Abney Level. They were calibrated, mounted, read, etc., as for the "Caves of Cheddar Gorge" survey (Wessex Journal 8 (103) PP 324-325). The "leap-frogging" technique was used throughout. The compass and level were tripod-mounted for the Grade 6 traverses and hand-held for the Grade 4-5 ones. Passage dimensions were measured at all stations, and some passages were sketched in the notebook.

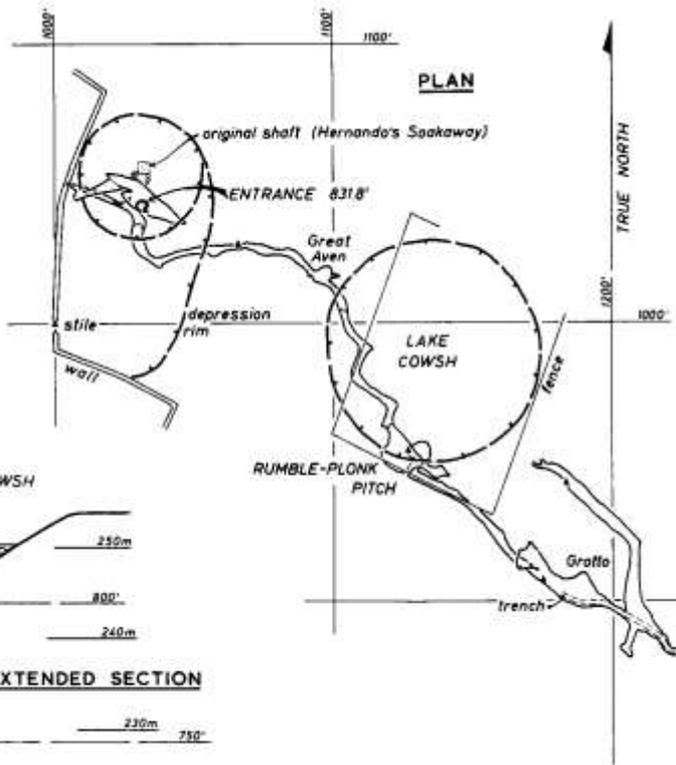
NORTH HILL SWALLET
PRIDDY, MENDIP N.G.R. 53595084

SURVEYED TO GRADE 4-6 AND DRAWN BY BIG WILLIE, 1971

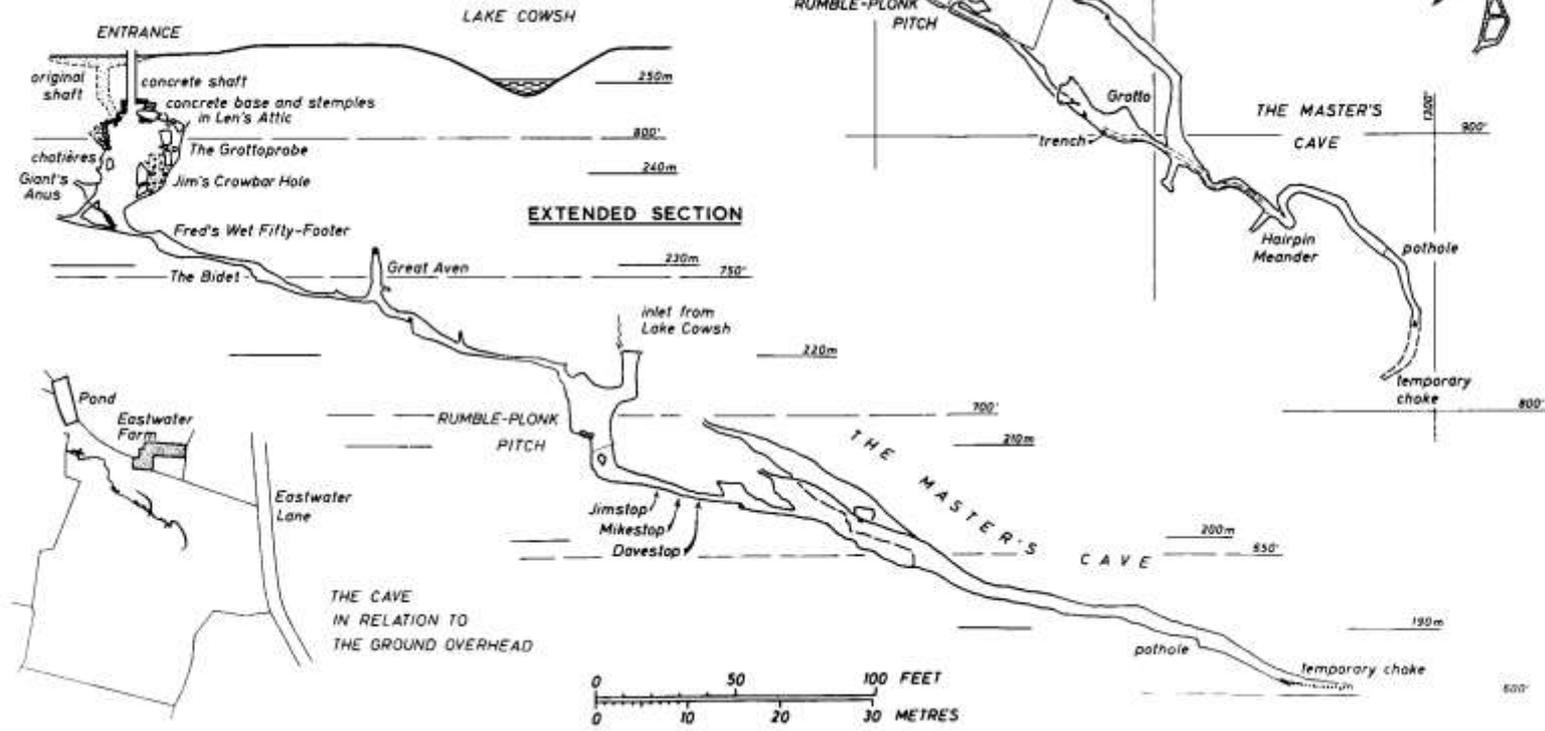
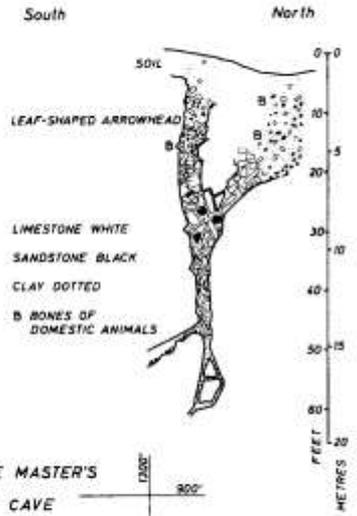
AIDED AND ENCOURAGED BY NASA KNIGHTS
 NANOATHON, FREEFALL, AND BARON BENTER

BENEVOLENTLY GUIDED BY THE MASTER

NOTES ON THE SURVEY APPEAR IN THE WESSEX CAVE CLUB JOURNAL NO. 138



DEPOSITS IN THE ENTRANCE SHAFTS



The upper passages, from the entrance to the fixed point near the Bidet, were surveyed at Grade 6 in 1967. The rest of the cave was surveyed at Grade 4-5 on three Sundays in 1971. Grade 5 is not claimed because the remarkable tortuosity of the system led to a certain amount of juggling at some stations. No closures were obtained.

The altitude of the entrance was established in 1968 by Wessex members using a Level (Wessex Journal 11 (134) p 235).

Seven permanent survey points were established, five in the cave, one at the entrance, and one on the nearby stile. Most of them are shallow holes made with a small drill. Their descriptions follow:

EASTINGS	NORTHINGS	ALTITUDE	DESCRIPTION
1000.0	1000.0	832.9	Rock point above crack in N.E. corner of stile step.
1031.0	1040.6	831.8	Entrance. Nick in rim of concrete shaft, on south side, 2" above drillmark.
1065.7	1028.6	747.4	Drillmark in small rock knob on north wall, c. 1.5" below roof.
1126.9	954.2	699.5	Rumble-Plonk Pitch. Drillmark on wall facing south, over Plonk, 6' above floor of Rumble.
1175.1	907.6	668.6	Drillmark in flowstone 5' up on S.W. wall.
1183.6	942.7	694.1	Drillmark on projecting rock corner on S.W. wall, 1' below roof, 10' back from end.
1292.9	831.4	608.4	Drillmark in centre of roof 6' after sharp bend to right, 25' before end.

Extra copies of the survey are available through the Cave Survey Scheme.

2. North Hill Swallet statistics

N.G.R. of entrance ST 5359 5084
 Altitude of entrance 831.8' (253.5m)
 Surveyed and sketched passage length 770' (233m)
 Vertical range 228' (69m)

3. Hail NASA!

Perhaps the finest feature of the cave is that fully one fifth of its total passage length had to be treated with high explosive to make it passable to the human body. Even now, after the treatment, traversing the tight rifts and flat-out crawls from the entrance shaft to the Master's Cave is a harrowing experience. The small bore of the pre-NASA way, often as little as six inches wide or high, seems to reflect the small size of the entrance depression. As usual the pitches and steeper sections of this tunnel were the roomiest places, thanks to the extra energy acquired by the tiny stream when descending them.

Recognizing all this, the diggers pinned their faith on the wider passages that would surely drain the much larger depression of Lake Cowsh, underneath which, they were certain, their fault-directed tunnel would take them. And so it proved. The Master's Cave is a fairly handsome canyon, only choked at a local levelling off. At the twin heads of this canyon are two narrow routes that originally took the Lake Cowsh drainage, but the active essence of cowsh now enters through the roof of Rumble-Plonk Pitch. It is presumably the oxidation of all this trickling sewage that has depleted the cave atmosphere beyond the pitch of oxygen, to such an extent that candles will not burn there.

The fault, mentioned above, is exposed in the entrance shaft, in the northern upstream branch of the Master's Cave, and by the pothole. It trends E.S.E. and is vertical. Sliakensides show late-stage horizontal movement, but bending of the strata indicates earlier down throw to the S.S.W. It is not mineralised, except by calcite, in the cave, but about 100 yards N.W. of the entrance shaft is a long chain of mining hollows trending N.W., either in this fault or an associated one. The fault is leading the cave straight for the entrance of Eastwater Cavern, but there are signs that the waterway may be diverging from it at the final choke.

The entrance shaft appears to have started life as a narrow vertical phreatic rift developed along the fault. It became filled with a buff somewhat gravelly clay, the gravel consisting of small fragments of chert, sandstone, and other insoluble material. Much later, the tiny local stream found it, opened it up, and bored the impassable drain below. (at other times, probably, the same stream made its way to Lake Cowsh and developed the Master's Cave). Usually the stream reached the entrance shaft through the northern route, Hernando's Soakaway, but, as the flint arrowhead, bones and other deposits show, the vertical southern route has engulfed debris to a depth of 20' or more in Neolithic and later times. This may have resulted in part from collapse due to the sapping action of the stream.

A high proportion of the choke material in the entrance shaft consisted of limestone boulders fallen from the sides. They were mixed with pebbles and cobbles of sandstone and chert washed in by the stream. Not easy to explain was the presence, from 27' to 32' down, of three large blocks of sandstone, presumably Old Red Sandstone, up to 3' long and weighing from one to three hundredweight (50-150 kg). They are far too big to have been moved by the stream, and if they were transported from the sandstone outcrops on North Hill by solifluction late in the Ice Age, one might expect them to be equally common elsewhere on the Mendip plateau. Perhaps they were, and have been built into walls or broken up or thrown into depressions by farmers. For the record, the biggest was destroyed by the rapid chemical process, another is in the front garden of no. 19, High Green, Easton, near Wells, and the third, still in situ, forms the foundation of a dry stone wall that holds up the west side of the entrance shaft.

Another curious find, 26' down, was an oval cobble of very hard fine-grained slightly micaceous sandstone or quartzite, as smoothly polished and rounded as if it had been on the seashore, quite unlike the usual Old Red Sandstone pebbles which are rough and poorly rounded, though it did have the same thin dark ferruginous coating. It is rather large, though not impossibly so, to be a pebble derived from a conglomerate bed in the Old Red Sandstone. It is a perfect shape and size to be chipped into a Neolithic axe head, but the suggestion that Neolithic man collected it from some gravel deposit and dropped it on his way home seems a little far fetched.

Proof that a smaller shaft to the surface exists further W.N.W., in the same fault, was noted in 1965 when blasting down past the Giant's Anus. This orifice earned its name when great quantities of bang-mobilized orange-brown and began to ooze intermittently from it, each flow being preceded by a rude noise. It was eventually plugged, but not before a subsidence 5' wide and 1' deep had formed in the field 50' above, six yards N.W. of the concrete entrance shaft.

4. Conclusion

Now tell me, o reader, if thou darest, who can learn of the wondrous works of NASA and not TREMBLE!

* * * * *

SHORT NOTICES

The British Caver is out again. Volume 57 for January 1972 contains 106 pages of the B.C.'s special type of article - less arresting than 'Descent', less thoughtful than the C.R.G. Transactions. It's the kind of padding which the Wessex Cave Club Journal would need to fill 106 pages instead of 30. The reviewer knows only too well how an Editor is liable to be heavy-handed to the point of self-edification and much of the B.C. does appear to be Tony Oldham.

There are two longish articles, one of Redcliffe Caves by a local historian and one about the writings of Geoffrey Grigson, a "cave fancier" who has a compelling topographical style when describing limestone areas. Extracts from his book 'Places of the Mind' are presented.

The Volume then falls off into bitty reviews of strange-sounding faraway publications, news of Australian caving, the Derbyshire Caver, the Yorkshire Caver, the South Wales Caver (with news of Llanidloes and Montgomery) and the inevitable Mendip Caver. The issue is completed with the second half of a caving glossary in which you can learn the meaning of 'squeeze' and 'weegie'.

As mentioned above, 'Descent' is far more of a national publication, far less self-conscious and is of a size better suited to the lack of pretensions most caves and cavers have to being newsworthy! It has now reached 19 issues and appears to be going strong. They are even offering the lavishly-illustrated 'Radiant Darkness' book for £1.25 this time.

The B.S.A. Bulletin contains a plea from the Editor for a national, or even Northern 'Explorations Journal' which would not serve as a magazine for cavers but, instead, be more of compendium of detailed and accurate accounts of discoveries. He complains that material is not rolling in for his Bulletin. Certainly he seems to be scraping the barrel with a fair bit of back-biting, scarcely concealed by large portions of Spit-and-Sawdust satire. The C.R.G. Newsletter looks brighter and better but contains rather too many reports by the Officer in charge of Bats and Bugs and others like him.

Best buy in the last two months for caving news - The Times - since they started carrying fairly regular articles by Ronald Faux.

A WINTER CAVING TRIP IN THE CANADIAN ROCKIES

by Pete Smart

Just before Christmas 1970 a group of three renegade Britishers, stranded out in the wilds of Alberta (in Canada), got together and decided a winter caving trip might break up the tedium of life a little. For those of you who have heard Derek Ford of McMaster eulogising on the biggest, the best, the largest, etc., etc., an introduction to Canadian caves is not necessary. However, for the uninformed a brief guide. In Canada it's not the caves that are hard to find, it's the cavers, and there's still a lot of known entrances which haven't been investigated. There are a few caves scattered in the East, but most are out West, either on the coast, such as Euclataws in British Columbia, or in the Western Cordilleran Ranges: - the Nakimu Caves in Rogers Pass, known since the turn of the century have been developed in the past by the Canadian Pacific Railway as a show-cave; Castlegard Cave 6.4 miles long, ending under the Columbia Icefield, and dangerously prone to flooding in summer; Disaster Point, with its 110ft. entrance pitch; the so far unentered Maligne System of huge proportions (probably!) in Jasper National Park; and lastly the incredible Ptolemy/Andy Good Area, opened up by Ford and his workers after many summers of searching in the Crowsnest Pass. It was to the latter we were going.

This caving area consists of a series of high benches and plateaux straddling the continental divide between Ptolemy and Andy Good Peaks near the Crowsnest Pass. It is reached by a 5 mile drive from the main highway up a track originally built for seismic exploration, followed by a laborious and steep climb up 2,000ft. on to the scoured and rocky benches. Exploration of the caves was started in 1969 and continued in 1970; it has yielded several fine systems which are still going, and many holes which haven't yet been checked. (See Canadian Caver Nos. 1 and 2). * The most important so far are Yorkshire Pot, a harsh vertical cave leading into a large series of steeply rising and falling phreatic passages; Mendips Cave, a damp and callous hole which is also starting to show great vertical development; and Gargantua, so named because of its voluminous passages compared to those previously explored. Gargantua was discovered last summer by Karst research groups from McMaster and Alberta Universities, and to date has yielded some 8,300ft. of surveyed passage and a vertical depth of 888ft. (See Canadian Caver No.3). * This depth is gained, unlike in Yorkshire and Mendips (Caves that is!), by steeply sloping passages and plunging trenches, and only a 56ft. and a 30ft. pitch are negotiated to reach the main system, though in other parts of the cave there are a 109ft. a 130ft., a 60ft. and other shorter pitches. It is therefore ideal for a lightweight trip, in that little vertical gear is needed. Furthermore, the size and position of the entrance is such (that) we hoped it would not be buried by snow, as is the case for most of the year with the other plateau caves.

Thus Gargantua was our objective. Gary Pilkington (Wessex and Bradford) who has caved extensively in many countries and originally suggested the trip, and 'Bugs' McKeith, a well-known Scottish snow and ice climber responsible for a new route on the North Face of the

Eiger in the summer of 1969, were the other two members of the group. We decided to attempt the trip and arranged everything for the weekend just before Christmas. You may be wondering: what's so special about a winter caving trip? - well, you see, Alberta is rather cold and has quite a lot of snow. In fact, at that time, temperatures were consistently below 0°F (-18°C) and down to -35°F (-37°C) even at low level, and we'd had a couple of feet of powder snow. This meant the seismic road was impassable, even by four wheel drive truck, and therefore we'd have to walk 6 miles and up 3,000 ft. with packs laden with food, caving gear, petrol etc., in conditions which could best be described as 'heavy going'. Furthermore there was a chance that when we got to the cave it would be blocked by snow.

We collected our gear from Edmonton (including snow-shoes, which in fact are not like tennis rackets at all!), picked up Bugs in Calgary, and camped the night in the Pass before setting off up the track the next day. In the valley the snow was crisp and firm and as we passed through the frosted coniferous forest, the air was still and quiet except for our steady tromping, and the gentle splashing of water in the stream. We made good progress, but towards the valley head the snow softened and our snow-shoes started to sink in, making progress slower. Then the trouble started. The steep section was ahead and was layered in deep powdery snow - it was an effort to move forward, snow-shoes slipping back as you high-stepped to get them to bite in the soft powder. You grabbed at trees and heaved, snow-weighted heavy on the mesh of the 'shoes, bindings loosened, packs grew leaden, going harder. This was no bloody use; we had to get out of the gully, our normal route up, and hope for harder snow on the ridge to our left; if we didn't get a move on we'd find ourselves benighted with no tents or other protection. Thank God, the ridge is firmer, even rock showing through in places; thread a way forward through the low scrubby pines, rest, push on, feet heavy, packs biting into shoulders, up into the snow covered basin by the scree. We'll never make the top tonight, another 1,500 ft. to go, we'll have to reach Ptolemy Cave and camp in there. Wind up the last slope, zig-zag to get 'shoes to bite, not much further, wind cutting into you, snow in your eyes; all grey in the coming night. Twenty paces stop, turn, twenty paces stop, turn; ah the top! Now find Ptolemy - to the right somewhere, by the three trees, grim fingers in the dark against the grey-white. Yes its open! Bindings frozen, hack, chop, cut off, got to get in out of this wind. Love that cave.

It was dry and still in the cave, we lit carbide lamps and found a decent flat place amongst the chaos of break-down and ice stal, but it was cold, oh so cold. This cave was shallow, broken into by the glaciers which had scoured the valley, and it didn't have the warm air we expected to find blowing out of Gargantua. A quick brew and things were better. After the meal we climbed into our 'bags and lay still relaxing, watching as the orange glow from the candle played among the scallops on the wall. We slept long, in spite of the pack-rats rattling round our tins and plates, and awoke determined to get into Gargantua that day. We packed up and clambered out over the snow at the entrance, hard to do dragging a 60 lb. pack with ladders and snow-shoes tied all over it.

The snow was firmer here, and we made good progress towards the col only 800 ft. above us. Towards the top the slope steepened and we took off our 'shoes. Eventually we had to kick

steps, and Bugs led us upward on treacherous snow which overlay sloping rock ledges and scree; a vast expanse of white curved gradually away to the benches 400ft. below - no place to fall. The wind was striking us now as we neared the summit, gusting in and clutching at us as if to throw us down. When we reached the top and sat on the divide to rest, it was continuous, lifting snow and hurling it into our faces reducing visibility drastically. The clouds lowered and soon we couldn't see 30 yards in any direction, Gary and I discussed our route and we decided to keep along the ridge where the wind had given the snow a firmer crust. There was a lot more snow than we had anticipated and we were both silently worried that the entrance might not be open. We pushed on, cutting across a shoulder, sometimes sinking thigh deep through the wind-crust. In the gully where the entrance should have been, nothing - a clean smooth snow slope falling one thousand feet into the Andy Good Valley, brushed by avalanches of powder from the crags above. Gary dumped his pack and crossed the steep slope indifferent to the dangers of a peel avalanche. Eventually he shouted back above the wind for us to cross; he'd found an entrance, just open and blowing a strong warm draught! It was the highest of three and has since been named the "Thank God" entrance. As dusk fell we thankfully rigged a ladder down into the entrance series, clambered down, and felt very content - we'd made it.

We set up camp at the first junction in the passage, a 20 ft. by 20 ft. phreatic tube with pendants and solution pockets, where a short cut leads off into Boggle Alley. We had the inevitable brew, melting ice stal on our roaring Optimus and chomping at cheese-hunk butties, whilst we discussed tactics. We'd lost one day already, our plan being to spend a day getting in, two days in the cave and one coming out, so we decided to save time on the 'big push' tomorrow by rigging the 56 ft. pitch immediately.

After clambering into grotty caving gear, we set off down the small steeply sloping passage, scrambling over the litter of break-down on the floor. Through an arch, onto a scree fan, and we were in Boggle Alley. Our steps echoed back at us from distant walls. It felt as if there should be a stained glass window round the corner and that at any moment a choir would burst into evensong; but our cathedral was in ruins - huge blocks filled the nave and the alter silver lay glinting back in the jumble of ice and stone; no music thronged back at us from the blackness. We made our way across the chamber, our eyes dimly picking out the glint of ice crystals and drips on the ceiling, until we came to the steep slope down to the 56. The break-down in the cave is very unstable, and this bit particularly so. It was here in the previous summer, during initial exploration, that Mike Shawcross had started out 'riding the boulder' and finished with the boulder riding him! Exit Shawcross - muttering.

We rigged the pitch, which is largely free, and Gary and Bugs went down to take some photos and have a look 'upstream', while I lined them and nosed around at the top. They returned, and we went back to camp for eats. I claim to hold the 'world's worst cave meal' record for that culinary masterpiece - sardines, sweet corn, baked beans and spaghetti, all in one pot with too much salt, and stale bread. The others did eat it though, they had to - it was all we'd got.

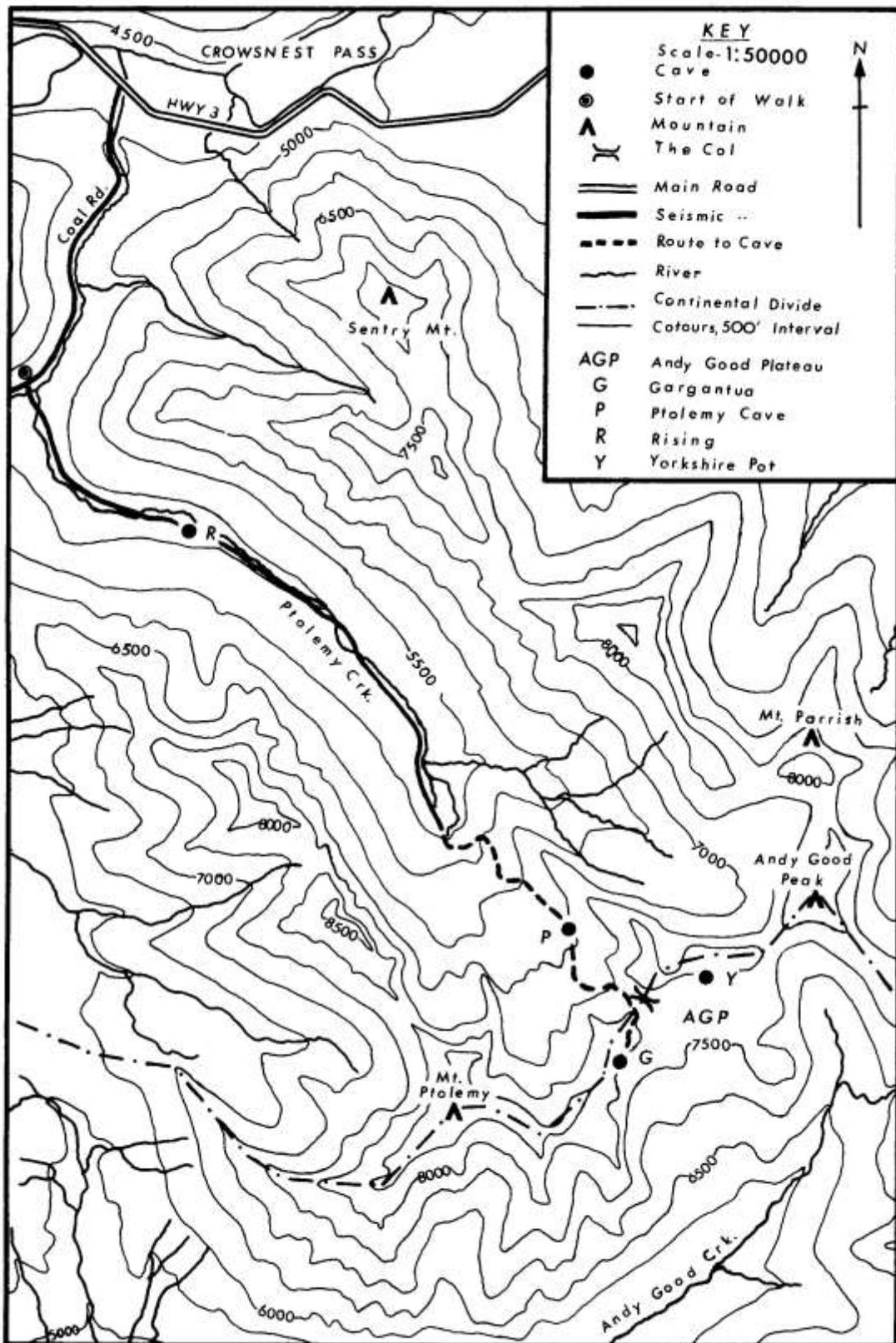
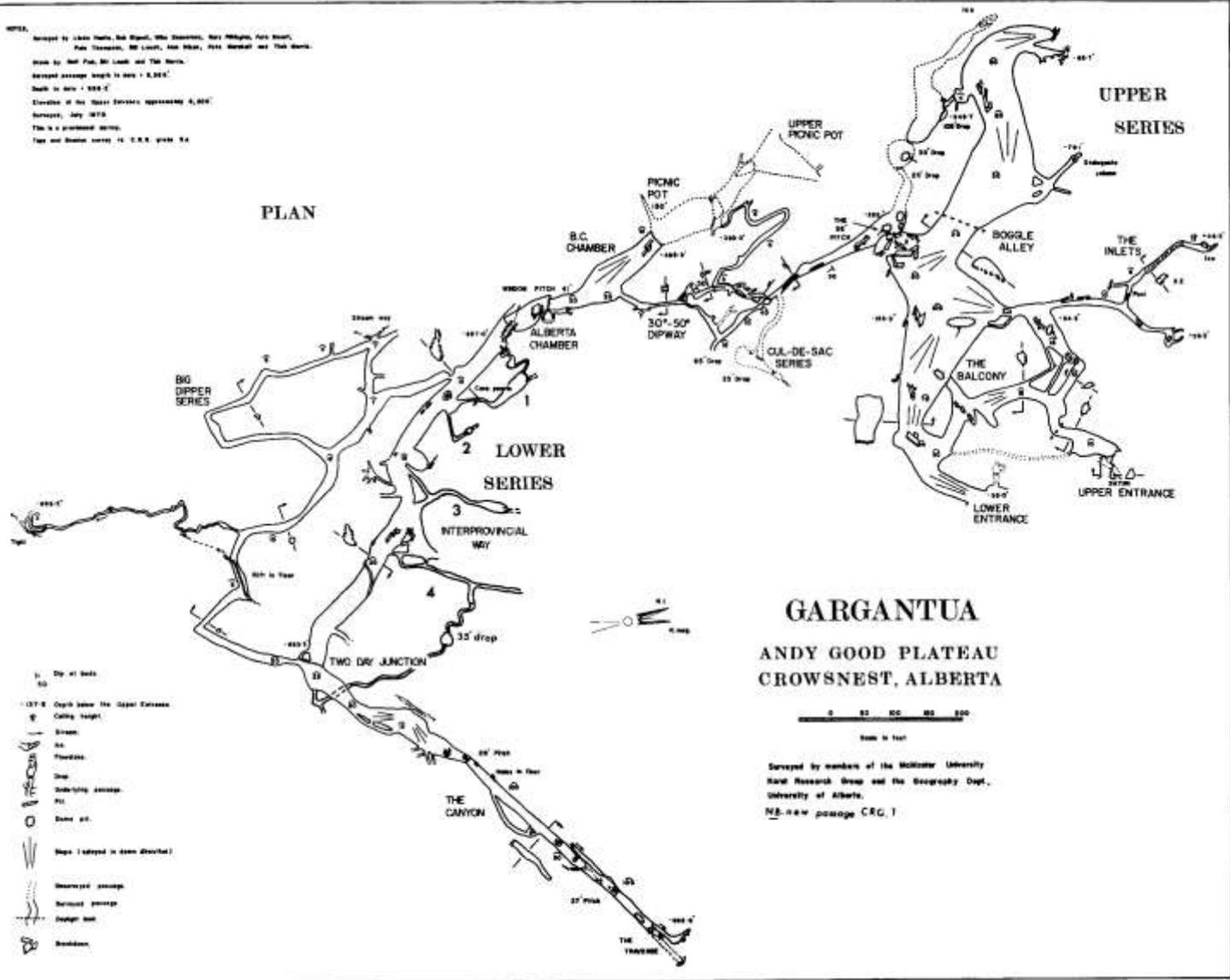


Fig. 1 Route to Gargantua, (Southern Alberta).

NOTES:
 Surveyed by Louis Beaulac, Bob Sigmond, Mike Stoenenick, Gary McLaughlin, Peter Brown,
 Alan Thompson, Bill Lewis, Alan Wilson, John Marshall and Tom Adams.
 Drawn by Bill Peck, Bob Lewis and Tom Adams.
 Horizontal passage length is 1000 ft.
 Depth is 1000 ft.
 Orientation of the "Lower Entrance" approximately N, 60° E.
 Surveyed July 1978.
 This is a preliminary sketch.
 Feet and Meters convert to 0.3048, grade 2.4

PLAN



GARGANTUA
 ANDY GOOD PLATEAU
 CROWSNEST, ALBERTA



Surveyed by members of the McMaster University
 Snow Research Group and the Geography Dept.,
 University of Alberta.
 NB-new passage CRG. 1

Next day we started off to complete our plan to push some of the inlet passages off Interprovincial Way, The way on after the 56 ft. pitch is via a 6 ft. diameter tube, dipping at 30°, which runs off dead straight until it hits a small 30 ft. pitch. This is avoided by a low passage on the right, which leads to the head of a steep meandering trench. The cave was coming back to me - this bit is hell for the first two or three times until you know it, but then it's like an old friend welcoming you back. I find Gargantua is friendly like that, it's the sort of cave with which you get to have an understanding, it's not menacing or hard like Yorkshire with its loose pitches and slippery trenched floors, nor harsh and repulsive like Mendips with its cold, rough rock and boulder-filled ways. The cave sort of welcomes you to come on in; this bit of passage particularly so - it seems eager to get you down from these minor ways into the grander chambers and hallways below, it reminds me of an escalator into the tubes in London - it seems almost remorseless in its urge for you to descend. Yes, I remember this bit, bridge right, hand-hold high on left, stay up don't go to the floor, push out through the slit, then a big airy step over the dry streamway 30 ft. below, lunge, bridge down, back upstream on to that ledge, and the section is over.

We were in Alberta Chamber now, at the upper end is Picnic Pot, 130 ft. into a blind pit and back out again - funny things go on with the passages up there; but our way was on down. First a 15 ft. climb with so many jugs they leap out at you, then the Window Pitch into B.C. Chamber - this is really one big room divided by blocks the size of cars. A low crawl over boulders leads out into Interprovincial Way; the draught is so fierce through this bit it often blows your lamp out. We were now at the first of our objectives, an inlet on the left (1 in Fig. 2) - It turned out to be a small passage which narrowed down to a flat-out crawl over a huge fractured slab of break-down, and then opened into a 60 ft. long 20 ft. high chamber filled with the loosest rock I have ever seen. No go, even after the effort of climbing up to some high level feeders. Out and into the next passage (2 in Fig. 2), some massive stal. but also a dead end, plugged by a rubbly fill the far side of a small pit. The third lead (3 in Fig. 2) looked more hopeful, but, much like the first one, it led through a crawl over break-down into a canyon passage with the only way on high up at the far end; no chance of reaching it without bolting.

A brief stop for chocolate and a re-carbide, then off into the next inlet (4 in Fig. 2); it went so I chased after the others (it was their turn to explore this one). Typical sort of Gargantua passage - black flowstone on the floor, massive white stal. crusting the scalloped roof of the tube, and sticky red mud over the flatter sections. The passage wound on upwards and then levelled out at a junction, where we took the right fork. The character changed, a dry streamway twisting and turning between high walls and going off steeply downward - would this lead us down into the present drainage with its system of passages at a lower level? A pit loomed ahead and we'd brought no rope (!*/?##!), Bugs climbed off round the side on shattered rock walls, and Gary followed bringing several tons down as he progressed. I waited at the top, having had previous experience of descending into blind pots. The others pushed on, and eventually emerged near Two-Day Junction, after having followed an arduous crawl under the Canyon. They were low on carbide and I'd got the side-pack - much consternation. Then they couldn't find the end of the passage we'd initially entered - big

panic. Gary was about to do an express trip to Alberta Chamber, where there's a carbide dump and water, when I heard Bugs and returned to Interprovincial Way thankful they weren't still down in the unknown.

Another carbide fill, and Bugs and I went to photograph some straws in the Big Dipper Series. This area has to be seen to be believed - 15 ft. diameter passages, scalloped and smooth, boring off dead straight at dips of 30° up and down; it resembles the stuff at the bottom of Yorkshire Pot. These are the only good formations in Gargantua, but are unspectacular compared to the decorations on Mendip (England). Our caves just aren't that pretty, although there is plenty of 'fossil' stal. disrupted by breakdown; low CO₂ partial pressures in the soil limit hardness such that little excess is present over the equilibrium level for cave air. Photography over, we retreated to camp for another haute-cuisine spaghetti special.

Ah, what a good day it had been, great to get back in a cave after three months away from them; and another 2,000 ft. (approximately) of new passage. Quiet talk over a steaming drink of orange, yes a good day.

After our tribulations in gaining access to Gargantua our exodus was no trouble - a bit of an anti-climax really. We clambered out of the entrance just as the sun rose over the Prairies: wow! the colour after two days of greys and browns - the oranges, reds and yellows of the sun, the clear azure blue of the sky, the sparkling white snow and the dark green trees.

That dazzling radiance of silver light we've all seen after a good trip was intensified one hundred-fold. It makes you feel good. The snow was firm and we didn't bother with snow-shoes; when gravity is with you, snow is no trouble at all. By twelve o'clock we were out on the road and zapping off to our favourite cafe for eats.

Winter caving trip on top of Snowdon anyone?

*The Canadian Caver deals with caving in Canada and other areas. It contains excellent provisional surveys of the caves mentioned herein, and articles relating to them. Copies may be obtained (cost \$1.00) from:- The Canadian Caver, Dept. of Geology, McMaster University, HAMILTON, Ontario, Canada.

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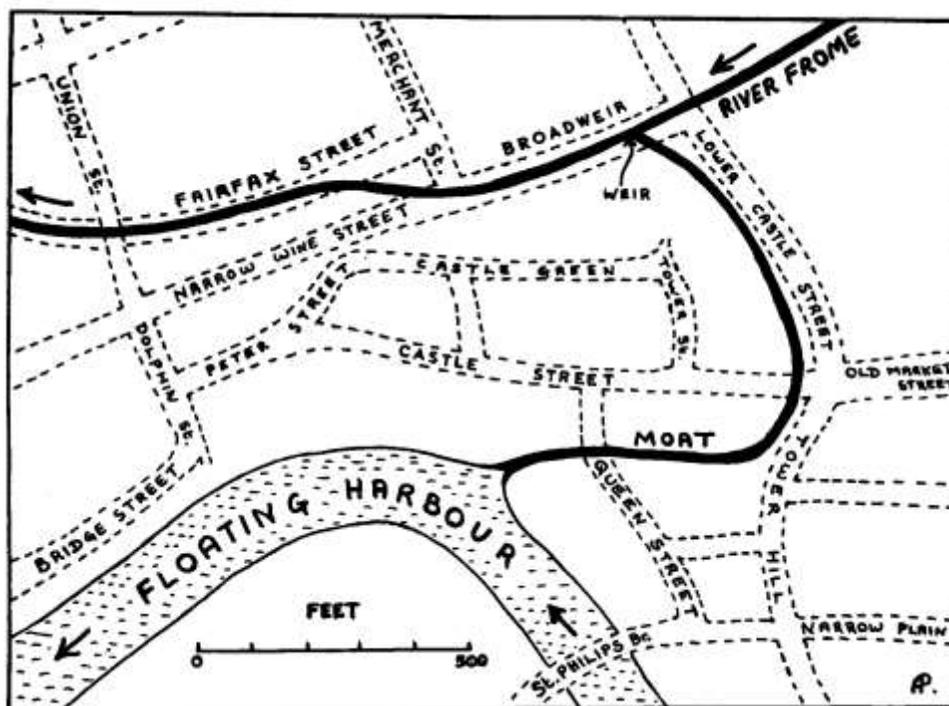
BY PUNT TO BROADWEIR

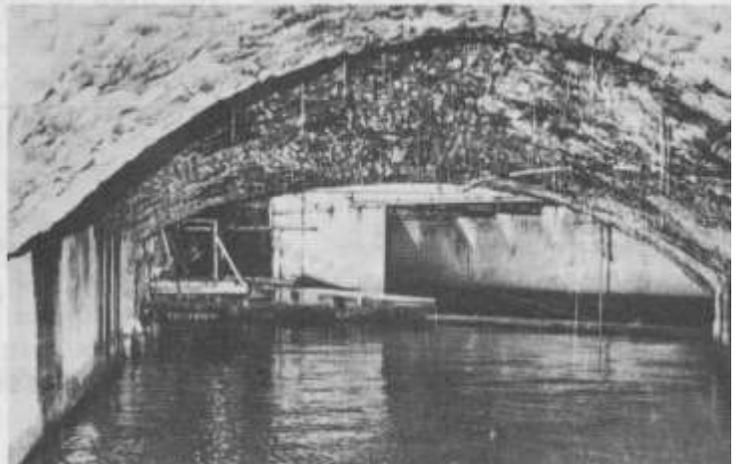
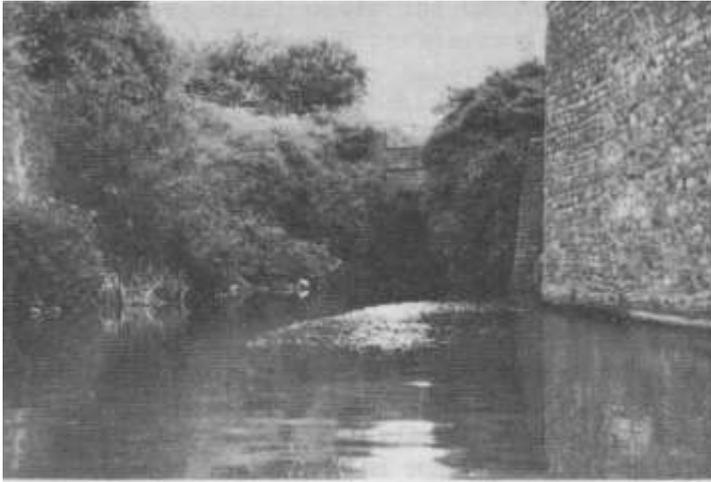
by Tony Philpott

One might ask how such an article as this could find its way into a reputable Caving Journal especially next to one on the Canadian Rockies! Although the real answer is that I bribed the Editor, my superficial excuse is that the story I am about to relate was the result of an underground journey beginning a little upriver from Courage's Brewery and terminating at Broadweir. I was anxious to make the excursion before the route was blocked due to building operations above, when a link with the past will be severed for ever.

Since the Moat is a waterway connected to the Floating Harbour, access is controlled by the Port of Bristol Authority and enquiries led me to the Dockmaster, Captain Hobart, who very kindly led the expedition. This started off in style from Prince Street Bridge in the motor boat "Arrow" and upon arrival at the entrance of the Moat we transferred to a less bulky craft. This was sculled over a shallow patch and through a tree into the Moat which to my surprise was crystal clear, unlike the Harbour.

The Moat of course was originally open all the way but over the years, after it ceased to be a necessary part of defence and simply became a sewer linking the Avon and Frome, it was covered, piece by piece as necessary, for building houses and roads. This is very noticeable from the water as one passes from high to low archways and different stonework. One sees little evidence of the Red Sandstone through which the Moat was originally cut although one can see the outflow of a Mediaeval drain and a walled up doorway that once led into the Castle.





Top Left: Entrance to Castle Moat (Photo: Tony Philpott)

Top Right: Formations on Moat Roof (Photo: Port of Bristol)

Bottom Left: Old Castle Drain (Photo: Port of Bristol)

Bottom Right: Broad Weir (Photo: Port of Bristol)

There were no formations of any quality - the stalactites looked rather seedy and an unwary sneeze on my part brought a straw down into my camera bag, disintegrating into a pool of white sludge as it landed. We eventually reached our destination, the limit of P.B.A. controlled water - Broadweir - where there is an access to the surface almost opposite Sainsbury's Supermarket. There had been no rain for sometime so the Frome (also roofed over) was very low but after heavy rain the river rises quickly and will flow over Broadweir and into the Moat, which is normally about six feet deep, causing it to fill to the roof in places.

We, alas, had to return as the lunch hour was drawing to an end so retracing our steps (or paddles?) we mused on those bygone days when the Castle was being built in the neck of the bottle shaped peninsula of marshy land between the river Frome and the river Avon. This was long before the Avon was diverted into the New Cut and lock gates installed to create the Floating Harbour - even before the Frome's course was re-channelled through St. Augustine's Marsh in the mid 1200's to make the early Bristol Harbour, instead of entering the Avon somewhere near Bristol Bridge. William I instructed Geoffrey of Constance to build a Castle and later Robert Earl of Gloucester, the illegitimate son of Henry I was given the Castle. It was he who enlarged it and improved the structure, even importing some special white stone from Normandy for the purpose. His Castle was one of the strongest fortresses in the Kingdom with walls twenty five feet thick at the base tapering to a mere couple of yards or so at the top. It enclosed six acres of land. He constructed the Moat along the Eastern wall connecting the two rivers thus surrounding the City with water. This stronghold survived until the mid 1600's when it was deemed expedient to have the structure demolished. Apart from the Moat there are few visible remnants of the old Castle left, just the odd bits of foundations unearthed from time to time on building sites, leaving only such names as Castle Street and Tower Street to remember it by.

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I would particularly like to thank the Port of Bristol Authority for all their help and the use of some of their collection of photographs of the Moat for this article.

REVIEWS

'Exploration '70, University of Nottingham Union report of the Speleological Expedition to the Picos de Europa, North-west Spain', edited by Geoff Matthews and obtainable from him at 62 Rivermead, West Bridgford, Nottingham, price 40p.

Times are changed from those days in which a moderately ambitious, moderately successful university caving expedition would be followed up by two or three pages of boring tales, badly typed on duplicating paper! This volume has 64 clean, crisp, offset-litho pages, with 3 dozen photographs and three fold-out surveys. A previous reviewer said of the last Nottingham Picos report (see Wessex Journal for Dec. 1969) that he trusted there would be a more 'definitive' publication to include the surveys and a few location maps. His trust was not misplaced. This seems to have been a far more considered expedition than those of 1964 and 1968, though it was not without hitch. The party lost a week on lorry repairs in France and were left with only 16 effective days' work in the Picos.

The caving reports mainly show how the party tied up the ends, from a survey point of view, of the previous trips and how 2 further kilometres of passage were added. In one case the entrance to new cave was shown to the intrepids by some local boys. In fact there were three entrances to the Cueva del Agua, one a 35 metre pot half way up a cliff, which belched steam. The Cueva Dobros, longest in the Picos, and discovered by Nottingham in '64, was extended a little but it seems the connection with Dobros resurgence will for ever elude them. However, there is now a Grade 5C survey of the place. Perhaps the most colourful description is of the Cueva de los Quesnos (the Cheese Cave). Its name comes from its use as a cheese store in which controlled rotting seems to take place, creating a foul air problem not reckoned with by the M.R.O.! The system proved far more complex than Dobros, with maze ways and old mine passages. There is much more to do there but time was not plentiful.

The report is completed with technical reports, one on thermawear, one including Suunto difficulties and the depressing news that one set of survey measurements was lost - that linking Dobros entrance to the resurgence. If the memory serves correctly, Nottingham lost a survey last time in the Picos. Obviously this is a plain excuse for visiting the area again and few will dispute the worth of such a venture. For others who might wish to do so first there is a handy list of addresses which need to be contacted for a smooth caving trip in the area. In all, good bedtime reading, with humour dominating science and heroics, and a volume which leaves other clubs no excuse for poor publications - at only 40p.

M.D.N.

Perhaps the Member who lost a copy of his Journal (with my address within) near Bilbao this summer would step up and receive his congratulations.

A copy of 'Kobie' was sent to me, which I swapped for some trifles about floods and so on. Whereupon, another copy of 'Kobie' was sent, even better than the first one. I'm afraid the reviewer cannot read a word of Spanish but the content seems ideal for the scientific caver. These issues contain an introduction to carbonate rocks, a critique of water tracing methods, a study of flow regimes in groundwater, together with cave and archaeology reports from the Bilbao area (especially Itxina). The reviews are mainly of English language work which must be extremely useful to those in Spain who witness the annual procession of us British chaps to their karst! One cannot leave the review without reproducing one of the quaint English abstracts which are provided for each paper (this one on water-tracing)? "It is about the divulgation of the several types of tracers taken their principally from Schoeller's book, 'Les Eaux Souterraines'. The first part is about the solid tracers, chemicals and colourings, giving a special mention to the fluorescein, finishing it with the radio-actives (sic) tracers. In the second parts it defines some concepts of the tracers, in the presence of water and ground".

For a provincial group to attempt this level of journal is clearly praiseworthy but a little hard going!

M.D.N.

'Fossilised Caves of Mendip', by L. Beverly Halstead and Peter G. Nicoll, in *Studies in Speleology*, Vol.2, Parts 3/4, 1971, pp. 93-104.

With the recent and continuing interest in Pleistocene cave fills, exposed at such sites as Westbury Quarry, the contents of this paper provide a reminder that many of our caves are a good deal older than the Pleistocene and contain fossils of the age of reptiles rather than that of bears. The caves described are those small remnants, usually exposed by quarrying, of the underground system developed soon after Mendip first formed. They all contain Triassic material and the authors ascribe their formation to this period too. The subaerial conditions during the Triassic are presented with the aid of artists' impressions and the paper is overall well-illustrated.

The caves dealt with are at Holwell, Cromhall and Durdham Down. A cave at Gliny in Poland is included to complete a series from that (at Holwell) where the sea which deposited the Keuper Marls completely invaded the cave to that (Durdham) where fossils were not so much washed in as thrown in by their own lack of care in passing cave entrances! The Gliny Cave shows a littoral fauna and must have been at or near the Keuper shoreline.

The paper is mainly descriptive but the conclusions point out that caves preserve a unique record of the fauna of upland areas during these times. Since such areas suffered widespread erosion there are few other accumulations of fossil material in situ. No conclusions are made about the extent of cave development during the Triassic and probably rightly so because of our restricted sample of what remains.

M.D.N.

"John Hutton, 1740? - 1806, His 'Tour to the Caves.....' and his place in the history of Speleology", by Trevor R. Shaw, Studies in Speleology, Vol. 2, Parts 3 - 4, 1971, pp 109 - 128.

For students of Geology this is not THE Hutton, but a vicar from Westmorland who was no less important to the beginnings of Speleology than his namesake to the revitalisation of Geology. His 'Tour', whose exact route and date are thrown into some doubt by the number of separate editions of its description, was to the '...environs of Ingleborough and Settle in the Weft (sic) Riding of Yorkfhire' (sic) and took him to many of the pots hitherto regarded as the haunt of devils. He was able to describe them in such confident terms that the first publication of the Tour appeared in 'The Gentleman's Magazine' for March 1761, making it one of the earliest descriptions of a caving area.

Hutton was not just a topographical author. He felt it necessary, as did most Men of God at the time, to comment on the origin of the features he described. In spite of the prevailing religious interpretations and Hutton's own calling he managed to express some very illuminating views. Some will find it hard to believe that in 1780 he wrote that the waters of Hunt Pot and Hull Pot, "cross each other underground without mixing waters, the bed of one being on a stratum above the other". This, as Shaw says, pre-empts LycoDrewkinson by almost two centuries, without a spore in the place! The test was in fact done by sending muddy water (after sheep washing) down one passage and the husks of oats down the other.

However, Hutton went a little astray on the topic of cave formation which he ascribed to the phase during which the Carboniferous Limestone was still soft. As it hardened in the air cave formation became less and less rapid - so the biggest caves can only be found at depth where the rock is still soft!

Shaw's paper is of the type which present-day speleologists find especially absorbing and it may well lead the reader to purchase the full version of 'The Tour' from S.R. Publishers, East Ardsley, Wakefield, Yorks, for £1 -50 - a reprinted edition of 1781. S.R. have also reprinted E.A. Baker's 'Caving - Episodes of Underground Exploration' (1942) at £3.15.

M.D.N.

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'Cave Calcite', by Arthur W. Wells, in 'Studies in Speleology', Vol. 2, Parts 3-4 , 1971, 129-148

The Author states that this paper is not a research report written for scientists but the clarity of the simple account is revealing of a considerable amount of study by the disclaimer. The photographs and line drawings which accompany the text provide an ideal guide to elementary mineralogy, crystallography and cave chemistry. It enables one to tidy up in one's mind those bits of information - about crystal lattices, ionic bonding, hexagonal crystals and planes of cleavage which went in during school lessons and have now been largely forgotten. Having described the ways in which crystal growth occurs, Wells classifies the forms taken by cave sinter and summarizes the work with a complex but clear cross-section of an imaginary cave, festooned with every possible speleothem.

M.D.N.

"Glaciation and the Stones of Stonehenge" by G.A. Kellaway. Nature, 233, September 3 1971. pp 30-35

"Field Meeting at Bristol and Bath with Special Reference to New Evidence of Glaciation" by A.B. Hawkins and G.A. Kellaway. Proceedings of the Geologists' Association, 82 pp 267-291, 1971

These papers set out to demolish the time-honoured belief that North Somerset, including the Mendips, was never over-ridden by glaciers during the Ice Age. Mr. Kellaway, the District Geologist, and Dr. Hawkins of Bristol University Geology Department, present a certain amount of new evidence and a great deal of new theory, in their contention that the area was deeply buried beneath far-travelled ice-sheets during at least two phases of the Ice Age. Mendip cavers, as will be shown, have peculiar opportunities to test this hypothesis. Kellaway goes on to argue that the giant rocks of the Stonehenge, Avebury and Stanton Drew stone circles were all deposited near their present localities by melting ice, and were not, as the archaeologists believe, dragged there from far and nearby prehistoric man.

Kellaway holds that southern England was not glaciated during the last or Wurm glaciation, but that in the two previous (Mindel and Riss) glaciations the ice-sheets did reach our area. The Mindel ice, coming from north, west and south about 250,000 years ago, brought to southern England erratic boulders from, respectively, Scotland, Wales and the English Channel (the latter being the sarsens of the Marlborough Downs and Salisbury Plain, held to derive from unknown Tertiary sandstone deposits on the sea floor). The Riss ice, 150,000 years ago, came from north and west carrying rocks from Wales, the Lake District and Devon, pushing the already ancient sarsens before it, travelling east along the valleys north and south of Mendip but not reaching Salisbury Plain.

The evidence supporting these conjectures seems remarkably thin. Glacial till (moraine) containing great boulders from Scotland and elsewhere is known to exist at a few places on the north coast of Devon and in Cornwall, and to these Hawkins and Kellaway add another at sea level at Kenn near Clevedon, where large glacially striated boulders of Carboniferous Limestone occur in boulder clay. Kellaway also describes previously unrecognised sarsen stones on East Mendip and Broadfield Down west of Dundry. He assumes for his further argument that:-

- a) The sarsens are far-travelled glacial erratics, not remnants of Tertiary strata that once overlay the Chalk;
- b) The Welsh-derived boulders at Stonehenge and at Boles Barrow near Warminster were carried there by ice, not by man;
- c) Certain valleys and gorges in the area, including the Avon Gorge, Rickford Combe, and the Asham and Nunney valleys in East Mendip, are glacial overflow channels;
- d) Far-travelled pebbles and cobbles, small enough to have been transported by rivers or coastal currents, are almost as valuable as giant foreign boulders in diagnosing the former presence of ice;
- e) Giant foreign boulders are now very rare because they have been removed or destroyed by human agency.

Your reviewer feels that, although the concept of ancient glaciation of our area is not impossible,

the geological and geomorphological evidence presented in these papers is often of doubtful value, and the deductions often illogical and contradictory. Some examples follow: -

1. Kellaway suggests that Chalk fragments recently found on Brent Knoll were deposited there by an ice sheet. If his belief that the last ice to reach the area was of Riss age is correct, these fragments have been lying there for c. 150,000 years, although it is well established (e.g., Pitty, Proc. Geol. Assoc. 79, PP153-178, 1968) that in limestone and chalk areas the ground surface is lowered about one foot in 5000 years by solution and removal of calcium carbonate in rainwater, in climates similar to the present.
2. In the same way it is hard to believe that the unconsolidated till at Kenn, and the Burtle Bed gravels near Kenn and Bridgwater (which Kellaway thinks are glacial outwash) have resisted erosion for 150,000 years, throughout the last interglacial and the fierce denudation of the Wurm glacial phase when sea level fell to more than 100 feet below O.D.
3. Both authors appear to relate glacial events of 150,000 and even 250,000 years ago to the detailed topography of today. For example, Kellaway says; "The situation of the stones of Stanton Drew is entirely consistent with the possible site of a moraine upstream of the Chew gorge at Pensford.....which may have operated for a time as a spillway from a glacial lake covering the upper part of the Chew valley...". This in spite of his recognition of a high (100'-300' O.D.) sea level, i.e. as high as Chew Valley Lake, in the interglacial following the Mindel glaciation, which, he argues, introduced the Stanton Drew erratics.
4. Some of the Stanton Drew stones are of limestone and Dolomitic Conglomerate, which, if emplaced during the Mindel or Riss, would long ago have been removed by solution.
5. Similarly, it seems likely that the bluestones of Stonehenge would be far more strongly weathered than they in fact are if they had been lying on Salisbury Plain for 250,000 years, including two warm interglacials.
6. The authors suggest that the Avon Gorge was cut by the river Severn spilling over the Clifton ridge at 250'-350' O.D. when the lower Bristol Channel was blocked by an ice sheet. Since they go on to say that the Clevedon-Mendip gap was full of ice up to 400' O.D., there appears to have been no exit for this overflowing river. Inherited or superimposed drainage from a higher surface seems a better bet.
7. Alternative origins may also be proposed for the "meltwater channels" of Rickford Combe (inherited drainage from the 550'-650' surface of that area) and the Asham and Nunney valleys (inherited drainage from the days when the Thames rose on Mendip, before Wurm capture by a tiny tributary of the By Brook diverted all the upper Thames drainage westwards into the Severn, forming the Avon of today. The capture point is now the Claverton- Limpley Stoke gorge. A glance at the map of the river system of northeast Somerset and West Wilts will illuminate this hypothesis).

It is noteworthy that in both the Mindel and Riss glaciations a large proportion of the ice is supposed to have reached our area from the west. In so doing it must have been pushed uphill to 500'-1000' above sea level, demanding an almost incredibly thick and high mass of ice in the S.W. Approaches, where, presumably, it would have been free to spread south westwards into open ocean.

The only solid piece of new evidence in favour of local glaciation, the till with striated boulders at Kenn, seems in fact to point to the approach of an ice sheet fairly late in the Wurm. Had it

been earlier, the till would have been eroded away long before now. However, had the ice sheet extended far inland at so late a date, it would have left many obvious traces of its presence.

This is where the Mendip caver can have a say. Kellaway and Hawkins suggest that giant foreign stones probably existed hereabouts, but have been removed or destroyed for building stone or for agricultural reasons. Nonetheless, under certain circumstances, such as burial in deep soil, they would escape attention. On Mendip they could be engulfed into swallet depressions or work their way down swallet systems, where only the caver or digger would ever find them. The discovery of a large block (or even a small one) of dolerite, basalt or granite deep in some dig would indeed make the geologists sit up and think. NASA did its best at North Hill Swallet (see elsewhere in this Journal), but sandstone blocks not far from a sandstone outcrop are hardly earth-shaking.

In sum, the authors deserve to be thanked for having provoked long stimulating arguments throughout S.W. England, but without more and better evidence their case can only be judged "not proven".

W.I.S.

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For those who have not seen it the Upper Wharfedale Fell Rescue Association, 1948-1968 is full of the sort of reading most cavers enjoy. It deals, unpretentiously, with 20 years of rescues and rescue attempts of all sorts, from unwary cows in mine shafts to the terrible tragedy of Mossdale Caverns on June 24th 1967. Its 44 pages have been published by the Craven Herald newspaper at 17½p and while the reviewer obtained one while travelling through Skipton no doubt a postal enquiry to the paper (at High St., Skipton) with suitable remittances would bring a copy to the door of Mendip-bound readers. Apart from Mossdale, most of the caving call-outs have been connected with the difficult Dowber Gill Passage, linking Dow Cave with Providence Pot, Kettlewell. There are photographs of the team in action.

The glossy Geographical Journal looms from amongst the loins and bosoms on most station bookstalls and in the December 1971 issue, on page 203, after a host of both loins and bosoms in an article on Nagaland, there appears an article by Doctor and Mrs. Waltham on 'Quest for Caves in high Nepal'. As described in a previous Journal, the British Karst Research Expedition to the Himalayas was mainly disappointed in its search for the large systems which might be thought to lurk in such high relief under the influence of such aggressive water from melting glaciers. While not producing caves because of the lack of joints in the Nilgiri limestone spectacular gorges are found, of which there is photographic evidence. The Harpan River Cave is described and there are colour shots of snow, peaks and real sherpas!

M.N.

WESSEX CAVE CLUB

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Priddy Village Hall on Sat., October 16th 1971.

The Meeting opened at 3.26 p.m. There were 55 members present.

1. The President, Mr. F.W. Frost, then gave the following address:-

'We again welcome you to the Annual General Meeting of the Wessex Cave Club. It is always a great pleasure to meet old friends at these gatherings, and those most important people, the newer and younger members in whose hands lies the Club's future. This subject, The Club's future, must be the theme running at all times through this meeting, and we do hope that any member who has anything positive to contribute to the discussions will give us the benefit of their views.

Carl Pickstone is taking an appointment abroad and will not be able to continue to act as Hon. Secretary. We are indeed grateful for his enthusiastic work on the Club's behalf, and will miss that fresh northerly wind which disturbed some of the cobwebs, even if it did not completely blow them away. We will also be deprived of the very valuable services of Donald Thomson. Donald who has recently enlarged his medical commitments, finds he cannot now spare the time to continue to serve on the Committee. He will be greatly missed as apart from a period abroad he has always taken a leading part in Club affairs including three years as Hon. Secretary. In addition to his work for the Club he has been, in recent years, the most active of the M.R.O.'s medical wardens. In expressing our sincere and grateful thanks for his outstanding work on our behalf. I know that I am speaking for every member.

We must also express our thanks to Malcolm Newson for his work as Editor of the Journal. This is a time consuming task and we hope that we will be able to find a member to replace Malcolm. I know that you will welcome the new Hon. Secretary, Tim Reynolds, who in addition to having been, at different times, both Hon. Treasurer and Club Auditor is an extremely active caver and cave diver. Phil Davies, a past Hon. Secretary, will be a valuable addition to this year's Committee with his wealth of experience of Club affairs.

We have read the Hon. Secretary's report with interest, and feel a number of points in it warrant full discussion, but I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate John Cornwell and his team for the outstanding discovery at Rhino Rift. I have several times during the summer visited Upper Pitts and agree that there is still a considerable amount of work outstanding on both the site and building. May I remind members that every offer of help with this work will be most welcome.

Before I leave the subject of the Headquarters, may I make a special request to members in residence to give a friendly welcome to every visitor at all times. This will go a long way towards retaining the Club's good image in the eyes of all cavers. A note in a recent issue of the Journal reminds one that all members should always remember that our friends the farmers and landowners of Mendip deserve our full consideration on every occasion, as

apart for the question of simple good manners, it is vital for the continuation of caving on Mendip that we retain their goodwill.

Finally, I would like to mention a general, but nevertheless a very important subject, and that is the preservation of Mendip as we now know it. At this point in time when we are being subjected to great pressure from commercial and other self-interested bodies to accept despoliation in the name of progress, the 'Mendip 71' Exhibition was staged to bring to the notice of the general public the necessity of conservation in this area. I hope that the Club, whilst still keeping a balanced viewpoint, will inspect very carefully any scheme effecting Mendip which could result in drastic changes to the area.

It is my firm conviction that a man is still a stranger to Mendip, however many times he may cave there, unless he has a feeling for Mendip as a whole.

On one Saturday evening this summer we wandered along the Eastwater road and looked down towards the Swildons valley. It was half light and at that distance the peaceful scene appeared to be just the same as it was over half a century ago. Long may it remain so'.

2. Apologies for absence were received from:- D.C. Bryant, Mr. & Mrs James Cobbett, G.T. Crummock, A.J. Green, Mrs. Phyl Green, Ron Harper, Ken James, Dr. O.C. Lloyd, Tim Lyons, Mr. & Mrs. H. Murrell, Ron Parfitt, Bob Picknett, Roy Staynings, John Thomas, Geoff Tudgay.

3. The Minutes of the 1970 A.G.M. had been previously circulated and were taken as read. Howard Kenney pointed out a typing error in the second paragraph of the President's Address. The increase in subscriptions mentioned should have read, 'from 5/- to £1.50'. The amendment was accepted. It was then proposed by Luke Devenish and seconded by T.H. Stanbury that the Minutes be adopted. This was carried unanimously.

4. Matters arising from last year's Minutes

a) Will Edwards asked if there had been any further developments of the proposal to build a slaughter house in Priddy, Jim Hanwell replied that it was not the policy of the Club to take action on such matters, unless it directly affected the activities of members. He added that the plans had probably been abandoned in view of the recent death of the person proposing the development.

b) David Tombs asked if the Club insurance covered members using their own tackle. Tim Reynolds explained that the insurance covers the Club and its members against all third party claims arising from caving activities. He did point out that the use of any unsatisfactory equipment could be reasonable grounds for the insurers not paying any claim.

c) Frank Frost asked if the members concerned had investigated the possible increase in danger of flooding of the Swildons entrance area since the completion of the new blockhouse. David Tombs replied that the new entrance was both caver proof and able to withstand a large amount of water. He thought that although the grating could become choked with debris, there were still enough passages for water to enter the cave. Mr. Main was apparently quite happy with

the structure. Hugh Pearson asked that it should be recorded that the building of the blockhouse was not entirely the work of Wessex members. In particular the B.E.C. provided the blockhouse door. Mike York said that it would be impossible to open the door if there was a flood and the water level rose above the keyhole. In the discussion that followed it was pointed out that there was no point in opening the door under such conditions and the M.R.O. could use explosives if it became necessary to gain access. The M.R.O. also have details of how to remove the grating if the need arose.

d) Mr. Frost raised the question of the purchase of caves by the Council of Southern Caving Clubs and asked if a company had been set up for this purpose. Howard Kenney said that the publicity given to the project to date was embarrassing and could result in the price of land and/or caves being increased. He had been reported in the press as saying that the project was not to buy caves but to set up a type of National Trust for Caves. Although this was not completely true he was not adverse to this kind of publicity. Howard went on to say that the company had not been formed yet, but the project was still going ahead and would be considered at the C.S.C.C. A.G.M. in January 1972. He stressed the following points:- (i) That the project was not to buy caves, but to make it possible to do so if the need arose, (ii) that the Wessex was in no way committed to help in any purchase, but he hoped that the Club would help should the situation develop to that stage. Luke Devenish asked if there was any chance of buying Gough's Caves.

5. The Hon. Secretary's Report had been circulated previously and was taken as read. Howard Kenney thanked Carl Pickstone for the report.

6. Discussion of the Hon. Secretary's Report, the following points were raised:-

a) Howard Kenney said that he was worried by the air of disappointment in the Report. He felt that the Club was running remarkably well considering its size and the fact that all the administration was done by voluntary officers. He congratulated the Secretary and Committee on the work that they had done over the past year.

b) Carl Pickstone extended thanks to Wally Willcocks for the work that he had done as Tackle Warden and for helping with the Journal distribution. It was due to Wally's efforts that most of us received our Journals during the postal strike. Thanks were also extended to John Jones who managed to obtain some Nife cells for the Club, the £100 profit from the sale of these cells has gone into Club funds.

c) A discussion about the state of Upper Pitts then followed. The duty hut warden rota had not worked during the past year, and so Mike York had accepted the job of Hut Warden for the next year but he made it clear that he was accepting the position for one year only. There was some criticism that some damage, e.g. broken windows, had been left unrepaired for a long time. Jim Hanwell pointed out that members should not take the attitude of, 'he broke it, he should therefore repair it', but do something about it themselves. Following on from this, Richard Kenney said that when repairing damage we should consider the reasons for the damage since it was pointless repairing a window if it was going to be broken again next week. Hugh Pearson suggested that we should run the hut on a similar system to a Youth Hostel and that everyone

who stayed at the Hut should be given a particular job to do. He also suggested that there could be a financial incentive for people to do some jobs. Luke Devenish thought that this was a good idea but that it might be better to engage an outside handyman for the more skilled work such as plastering. Luke also suggested that a list of outstanding work should be published in the Journal. Howard Kenney pointed out that the Club rules probably prevented members from being paid by the Club and that in any case the terms of the grant which we received might also prohibit such payment. Luke Devenish then asked if a supply of materials, e.g. paint, was kept at the Hut. It was pointed out that a small amount is usually kept at the Hut, but that Wally Willcocks can usually obtain anything in a week or two if it is required. Jim Hanwell then closed the discussion and asked the new Committee to consider the question of repairs to the Hut in the light of what had been said.

d) Jim Hanwell asked Malcolm Newson to explain to the meeting the difference between the present (quarto) paper and the proposed size paper for the Journal. Malcolm replied that the A4 size is slightly longer than quarto (the difference being 1¼ inch or 3.2 cm on the longest dimension). Quarto paper is falling out of favour with printers and so will become more expensive and more difficult to obtain in the future. It is expected that most caving publications will eventually change to A4 and so if we change the Journal we will not be the odd man out. The disadvantages of this change are that envelopes will need to be larger and so postage may cost more. The meeting was asked if there were any objections to the change, provided the Committee approved of the financial aspects. No objections were voiced.

e) Mike York pointed out that although Club money had been allocated for the building of radio-location equipment, the device now lying in the far reaches of Wookey Hole was paid for by one or two members out of their own pockets. Aubrey Newport added that the proposed dig into Wookey 20 was not a Wessex project. In fact the Cave Diving Group are responsible for the project but since the C.D.G. includes several Wessex, members the Club will be participating in the project.

f) The Club Library was discussed at some length. Chris Hawkes has previously kept the Library at his house in Bristol but he will be moving in November and again in March. Eventually he will be living at Westbury-sub-Mendip. Chris is willing to keep the Library at his house at Westbury-sub-Mendip and make it available to members at any reasonable time. Jim Hanwell said that this was one of three alternatives, the second is to keep the Library at Upper Pitts. When the decorations in the Quiet Room are finished it would be possible to keep the books and magazines in suitable cupboards in that room. If this was done some people thought that it might be necessary to bind the publications to prevent damage. Keith Barber outlined the third alternative which is to keep the Club Library at Wells Public Library. If it was kept there, it would be in a separate bay and would be available to anyone (including the general public) for reference. Club members would, however, be able to borrow the books and magazines. The advantages of this were that the Library would bind the books for us, possibly free. In addition the books would be freely available and they would be looked after for us by the Library. The disadvantages were that the Library is only open from 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. on Saturdays and not at all on Sundays, and that Wells is remote from the Hut. Luke Devenish enquired whether it was desirable to allow everyone free access to the books in our Library since he was worried about children finding out about some caves and exploring them without proper equipment. Jim

Hanwell replied that our Library would not increase this danger because there were already many caving books in Wells Public Library. He then asked members to make their views known to the Committee on the fate of the Club Library, but he pointed out that it would not be put in Wells Public Library unless a General Meeting of the Club had agreed to this course of action since once done this would be an irreversible step. Chris Hawkes then made a plea for any spare hardcover books which members might have which they may like to donate to the Library.

g) Jim Hanwell outlined the book buying scheme which was being run by Mike York. The result of this scheme is that members can buy books at reduced rates and the Club Library gains a copy of every title sold under the scheme.

h) David Tombs said that he had discovered a source of boiler suits at 50p each. Wally Willcocks pointed out that the Club was able to sell boiler suits for less than this by buying from a source in London.

Frank Frost then thanked Carl Pickstone for his Report and the work which he had done for the Club over the past year.

7. The Hon. Treasurer's Report had been previously circulated and was taken as read. It was proposed by Mike York and seconded by Derek Tringham that the Report and Accounts be accepted by the Meeting. This was passed unanimously.

8. The Hon. Treasurer was not present at the Meeting and so Tim Reynolds 'stood in' during the discussion that followed. The points raised were as follows:-

a) Upper Pitts had not made the surplus this year that had been expected. This was due to a large increase in the rates and insurance coupled with the suspicion that people had been forgetting to pay their Hut fees. Howard Kenney was very critical of the previous years Committee for not increasing the Hut Fees as he had suggested at the last A.G.M. The £13 surplus on running the Hut did not reveal the true position since the Hut was depreciating and in due course expensive repairs would be required. If his suggestion at last year's A.G.M. had been carried out there would have been a surplus on running the Hut of about £140 which was the level of money which should be accumulating in the Hut Fund. He said he felt that the new Committee should consider increasing the Hut Fees as soon as possible. Jim Hanwell raised the point of charging people who use the Hut for changing, etc. At present there is a nominal charge of 5p for this and for use of cooking facilities only. This fee is not collected very often. Howard Kenney said that this was the fault of the Committee for not making everyone aware of this charge. Keith Goverd then offered to make a 'tariff board' for the Hut when the Committee had agreed on the Hut Fees for the future. Luke Devenish asked if the annual subscription could be increased to cover changing fees. Following on from this Don Thomson thought that it would be a good idea to increase subscriptions by about 25p to avoid the inconvenience of paying each time one used the Hut for changing. Tim Reynolds replied that it was difficult to raise the annual subscriptions until 1973/74 but that it was a point to consider. Derek Tringham asked if it would be necessary to pay to use the Club Library if it was moved to Upper Pitts. Jim Hanwell replied that members were entitled to use the Hut free of charge at any time, unless they used it for cooking or changing.

b) The rising costs experienced by the Club in the past year meant that it would soon be necessary to increase the annual subscriptions. Tim Reynolds suggested that the matter should be debated at the 1972 A.G.M. so that a new rate could be fixed for 1973/74. This was convenient in that the last of the period subscriptions expired in 1972/73. The period subscriptions had been a help to the Club and it was proposed to repeat them from 1973/74 on. Richard Kenney asked if it was possible for members who had paid a period subscription to be asked to pay extra because of an increase in the annual subscription during the term of a period subscription. Don Thomson replied that one of the attractions of period subscriptions was that they could not be increased which was only fair since the Club had had the use of the member's money in advance. Howard Kenney then proposed the motion, 'That the next A.G.M. shall raise the Annual Subscription'. This was seconded by Keith Goverd and carried by a large majority with one vote against.

c) Howard Kenney asked if a Publication Fund had been set up as was suggested at last year's A.G.M. Tim Reynolds replied that no new fund had been set up yet although there was a separate bank account for cash received for publication sales. He went on to say that the disadvantage of a separate fund of this nature was that you could only spend the money on one thing - publications, and so a lot of money could accumulate and the fund could become an embarrassment. An example of this was the Survey Fund. Howard Kenney accepted that this was a valid point and then proposed the motion, 'That a fund shall be set up, the prime purpose of which shall be to finance future publications. This fund may be used for any other purpose at the discretion of a general meeting of the Club'. This motion was seconded by Keith Barber and passed with a large majority with two votes against. Malcolm Newson then asked members to start writing for the Journal and for future Occasional Publications since the Karst Police had now 'dried up'. Howard Kenney suggested that perhaps there should be some record of the archaeological work done by members of the Club.

d) Chris Hawkes enquired whether it was possible to claim for broken windows, etc in the Hut from the Insurance Company. It was agreed that the new Committee would look into this during the coming year.

9. Tim Reynolds then gave the Auditor's Report. He started off by saying that he would not stand as auditor for next year since he felt very strongly that the auditor should be someone outside the Club administration. He then went on to say that the accounts presented a true and fair view of the state of the Club's finances but that he would like to draw member's attention to the following:-

a) There was evidence that a considerable number of Hut Fees had not been paid during the year and the figure involved could be as high as £25 It is hoped that the appointment of a permanent Hut Warden this year will help eliminate the problem.

b) The stocks of Occasional Publications were now selling at a very slow rate and so the Club should wait until it had recovered the cost of the publications already printed before publishing any more. In reply to the last point Malcolm Newson said that he was going to advertise some of the Club's publications in the U.S.A. and Canada and he hoped that this would result in more sales.

10. Discussion of the proposed extension to Upper Pitts.

Jim Hanwell opened the discussion by outlining the proposal; the extension would butt onto the ladies dormitory end of the Hut and would be approx- 25 ft. (8.5 m) long and approx. 16 ft. (5.4 m) wide. The planning authorities had been approached, and they had said that they would not have any objections in principle provided that the extension was of similar materials to the existing building. Jim Hanwell then asked two questions:- (i) Would the A.G.M. support the proposal?, (ii) How would the extension be financed? Howard Kenney asked for details of the estimated cost of the extension and Jim Hanwell replied that this was not yet known. Howard Kenney then went on to say that in his opinion it was not the correct time for the Club to start an extension to the Hut, until the Committee could show that it can run the existing Hut. He supported his opinion by mentioning the small financial surplus made during the last year and recalling the comments about the untidy state of the Hut. He thought that the Committee should be given a year to prove to the Club that they could run the Hut properly. At the end of the year the Committee should bring to the A.G.M. evidence that they were able to run the existing Hut. He felt that until the Committee had satisfied the Club on this point the A.G.M. should not approve the proposal to go ahead with the extension. He said that he had no objection to the Committee obtaining outline planning permission and getting firm estimates of the costs involved, but the go ahead must wait until the existing Hut was running properly. Finally, he felt that the plans should be published in the Journal to give all the members a chance to see what was involved and that the Committee should investigate the possibility of a grant. Jim Hanwell replied that it would probably take a year to obtain outline planning permission. John Iles said that grants for projects of this nature were now being withdrawn and it was becoming very difficult to obtain them, hence the best chance of getting one would be to apply as soon as possible. At this point Wally Willcocks said, "This bloody club is stagnating, it is high time it gets off its arse and does something. If the extension is not started soon then this Club will stagnate out of existence!". Wally went on to say that it was intended that members should build the shell because this would save a lot of money and arouse more interest amongst members. Keith Barber said that he did not agree with Howard Kenney's view and he felt that there was no point in putting things off for a year, instead he felt that the Club should do something positive. Howard Kenney replied that he did want positive action; he wanted the Committee to put the Hut in order so that the next A.G.M. could approve the plans for the new extension. Jim Hanwell said that prefabricated buildings, such as a garage, had been considered but this was not suitable as it would not blend in with its environs. He suggested that some fund raising could be started but until the A.G.M. had given approval there should not be an appeal to members. Pete Cousins said that he thought that the Committee should be allowed to start building next year otherwise the summer would be lost. Howard Kenney replied that he would not object to a General Meeting called if the Committee had been able to sort out the Hut earlier than the next A.G.M. Frank Frost said that several people who had donated money for the Hut were disappointed with its present condition. Jim Hanwell replied that its present condition was due, in part, to the lack of sufficient storage space for digging equipment. Howard Kenney then proposed the following motion, "This meeting fully understands and supports the desire to fully develop the Upper Pitts site and requests the Committee to finalise plans and circulate them to members. The Committee is also requested to call a General Meeting of the Club as soon as they are ready for the plans to be considered'. The motion was seconded by Harry Stanbury and was carried by a large majority with one vote against.

11. Election of Officers,

The following, having been proposed and seconded, and there being no other nominations, were duly elected:-

President	-	F.W. Frost
Vice-Presidents -		Norbert Casteret, Rev. C. H. D. Cullingford, W. Harris, Com. P.B. Lawder, H. Murrell, Dr. E.K. Tratman, Dr. F.S. Wallis.
Hon. Chairman	-	J.D Hanwell
Hon. Secretary	-	T.E. Reynolds
Hon. Assist. Secretary		K.E. Barber
Hon. Treasurer	-	Mrs. P. Green
Hon. Tackle Warden -		W.J.R. Willcocks
Committee	-	P. Davies, A.E. Dingle, A.J. Green, J.H. Jones, I. Jepson, R.R. Kenney, R.A. Philpott, R.J.R. Vanderplank, M.W Dewdney-York.

12. Election of Hon, Auditor,

It was proposed by Luke Devenish and seconded by Chris Hawkes that Howard Kenney be elected Auditor for 1971/72. This was passed unanimously.

13. Luke Devenish thanked everyone who had done work for the Club in the past year. Jim Hanwell said that refreshments would be available after the meeting and that surveys and publications would also be on sale. He had just heard that the Guest of Honour for the Dinner would not be able to attend since his car had broken down.

The meeting closed at 5.50 p.m.

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