



FOREWORD

This will be the last issue for the current Club year that will be received before the Annual General Meeting, which is being held on October 26th. We hope members have been reasonably satisfied with the previous five issues, and we would like to place on record our grateful thanks to those people who have contributed articles, etc. The task of preparing and making up each issue has taken up an alarming amount of time, so we recently found out what it would cost to have the duplicating done professionally. It was clear from the quotation received that it would cost far more than the Club receives in subscriptions. In addition there would be the cost of the postage (shortly to be increased) envelopes and covers. As this is a problem that may have to be faced in the near future, we feel that it should be brought to members' notice now.

Some while ago the South Western Electricity Board informed us of their plans to bring a supply of electricity to the Hillgrove district, and they asked if we wished to be considered for inclusion in the scheme. The Committee has told the Board that they would like the supply to be brought to the Hut, and we gather that it will not be long before this is done.

Richard Kenney has sent us an additional list of books in the Club library, but it will not be possible to include it in this issue. A number of these books are in fact a gift from Richard and we are very grateful to him for his kindness.

Finally, members are reminded that the Club year ends on September 30th, and we hope as many as can will come along to the A.G.M. and Dinner on October 26th. Traditionally this has become the one day in the Club year when members have an opportunity for meeting old and new friends.

Hon. Secretary, Frank Frost, 22 Wolseley Rd., Bristol, 7.
Tel. Bristol 44221.

Hon. Treasurer, G. Williams, 1 Redhill Drive, Fishponds, Bristol. (After 23rd September: Cedarwood, Cadbury Camp Lane, Clapton in Gordano, Somerset.)

We welcome the following new members:

M.B. BIRD, 5 Atlantic Rd. South, Weston-super-Mare.

Miss S.A. COOPER, 54 Douglas Ave., London, E.17.

G.E. PECKHAM, 40 Hazelbury Rd., Bristol, 4.

J. SKINNER, 12 Hurst Walk, Bristol, 4.

H.T. WICKHAM, Top-o'-the-Hill, Church Rd., Hartley, Nr. Dartford,
Kent.

Change of address:

Rev. C.H.D. CULLINGFORD, 212 Britannia Ave., Dartmouth, Devon.

F.J. DAVIES, Hawarden Grammar Sch., Flintshire.

P.B. DOLPHIN, P.O. Box 1, Kampala, Uganda.

W.G. HARRISON, R.C.N.C. Construction Dept., H.M.Dockyard, Malta,
G.C.

R.R. KENNEY, 5 Butts Close, Glastonbury, Som.

Rev. P.F.C. LAMB, c/o Mrs. Kennet, Goodleigh, Winkleigh, N. Devon.

R. SAVORY, P.O. Kipkabus, Kenya.

Dr. & Mrs. D.M.M. THOMSON, 42 Pewley Way, Guildford, Surrey.

Officers and Committee for 1957/58

Nominations for the above and notices of motions for discussion at the A.G.M. must be

received by the Hon. Secretary not later than October 1st.

Copies of Stanton's survey of Swildon's Hole published by the M.N.R.C. can be obtained from R. Kenney, 5 Butts Close, Glastonbury, price 3s. 6d. (cash). It should be pointed out that this does not include Swildon's IV.

Future Events.

October 26th, Annual General Meeting, Cliff Hotel, Cheddar, 4.0 p.m., followed by the Annual Dinner, 7.30 for 8.0 p.m. The cost will be between 9s. and 9s. 6d., but this charge will include staff gratuities. Names to the Hon. Secretary as soon as possible and not later than Monday October 21st.

G.B. Guest Days (for the Wessex C.C.): September 28/29th, November 9/10th, December 21/22nd.

VANDALISM IN CHEDDAR GORGE

In company with other caving clubs the Hon. Secretary of the Wessex has received a letter from Mr. Robertson, the Manager of Gough's Caves, Ltd. concerning damage which has been done to the gate, which he had placed on the entrance to Great Oone's Hole last winter. It was recently found that the padlock and chain had been removed, the gate left open and the notice thrown down the side of the Gorge. It has been Mr. Robertson's custom during the past few years to allow organized caving groups access to these caves, but he wishes us to understand that, while not suggesting that any of these groups has been responsible for the vandalism, he is becoming reluctant to continue this policy.

NO END TO THE DARN PLACE

A caver returning to Mendip after an absence of three years is at something of a disadvantage when he seeks to revisit the underworld. New faces throng Hunters, the Vic, and similar rendezvous. Old stalwarts have married, and grown stout. However, it was mostly my preoccupation with following the latter's example that kept me from trying to bring the Swildon's survey up to date until shortly before the end of my leave.

Eventually Christopher Hawkes and I decided to spend as much as possible of Easter weekend in putting Paradise Regained onto paper. The first essential was to get Mud Sump baled out after the winter, and Richard Kenney, Mike Baker, and a party of Bedford School boys nobly carried out this unpleasant task on Good Friday, 1957.

The survey trip was definitely a marathon, though Christopher and I were aided by Marcel Thums and Mike Holland, who obligingly sherpaed our tackle in, and by the Bedford boys, who carried it part of the way out. We surveyed at Grade 5 from Mud Sump to the head of Blue Pencil Passage, and sketched in all side passages at Grade 2-3. By an oversight we carried no timepiece with us, and thus, overstepping our time limit of 15 hours, we were "rescued" on our way out by Marcel and the Bedford boys, at 3.30 a.m. on Easter Monday. For this we take the opportunity to apologize again, and to thank Jack Carlton for hot soup most generously and copiously supplied.

Summarizing briefly the results of the survey: From Mud Sump to the head of Blue Pencil Passage the distance is 847 feet (going the long way round

the Oxbow). The approximate total length of Paradise Regained is 2045 feet. The lower end of Blue Pencil Passage is about 350 feet beyond Saint John's Bell, and in the Duck II - Sump II line. There is therefore, every reason to suppose that the stream one hears through that tantalizing little rift at the end of Blue Pencil is our old friend of Swildon's I and II. Just to be awkward, it's now heading for Wookey Hole!

Including all the discoveries made in the last three years, the passage length of Swildon's now totals 11,000 feet, or 2.1 miles. Some aspects of the revised survey encourage mild speculation, although I may be sticking my neck out in theorizing after only one visit to Paradise Regained.

1. Christopher's Grade 2 sketch of Maypole Passage shows an aven crossing Lower Damascus at a slightly higher level. If a connection could be established here, by-passing Mud Sump, Paradise Regained would at once lose much of its remoteness.

2. The complicated mazes of the Damascus - Meander Passage - Maypole Passage area probably reflect the fairly close faulting and fracturing thereabouts.

3. The fault trending ENE in Fault Chamber seems to be an important one, and may be Welch's West Priddy Fault, or one of several parallel faults making up the West Priddy Fault.

4. Very incomplete scalloping observations suggest that water flowed a. from the Upper Grottos (Tratman's Temple) to Pitch Chamber; b. from the choke beyond the entrance to Blue Pencil Passage to Fault Chamber.

5. The roomy up-and-down-stepping tunnel between

Blue Pencil Passage and Fault Chamber is much the most important waterway in Paradise Regained. It is very reminiscent of that part of the Black Hole Series between the Black Hole and Abandon Hope (the choke below the Eleven Foot Drop), and is at the same general level. In view of the scalloping direction, it seems not impossible that it is in fact the continuation of the Black Hole Series, making the same acute left-hand bend as the active streamway. If so, the route is: Priddy Pool - Fools' Paradise - Black Hole - Abandon Hope - unknown passages - choke beyond Blue Pencil - U Tube (Bedroom Squeeze) - Fault Chamber - unknown passages.

6. If there is anything in this hypothesis, the continuation of this upper level is to be found in Fault Chamber, either via the big hole in the roof, or maybe by a passage concealed beneath the great pile of boulders on the floor.

7. Anywhere in the unknown parts of the upper level, either between Abandon Hope and Blue Pencil or beyond Fault Chamber, there is a chance of finding a connection with the streamway.

8. The big fault is likely to cause changes in the trends of the cave passages at both levels.

9. The further route of the water which flowed from the Upper Grottos to Pitch Chamber is hard to surmise. It may at one stage have gone down the pitch, but the main route is more likely to have been via the Greasy Chimney (Mud Chute) with upper level water to Fault Chamber and beyond. There is probably a choked low-level passage from the bottom of the Greasy Chimney to the bottom of the Twelve Foot Drop, the blocking of which

allowed the formation of the narrow high-level oxbow.

10. The discoveries of the past 10 years have changed Swildon's from an apparently linear system to a well-defined network following the dip. The overall direction seems to be southwards.

11. Water has apparently entered the cave from many points in the bed of the surface valley, both below the present entrance (the Oxbows) and above it (the Pretty Way Boulder Chambers and Fools' Paradise). The stream entering Fools' Paradise through the Second Boulder Choke probably seeps through the valley floor at Priddy Pool and above, and would be better called the Priddy Pool Stream than the Priddy Green Stream, which we have yet to find underground.

The M.N.R.C. has printed copies of the revised survey, but it is too much to expect that this latest version will remain up to date for long. There seems to be no end to the darn place.

W.I. Stanton.
16th June, 1957.

(Editor's note. One day before he finished this article, Stanton's prophecy was fulfilled. The article which begins on the next page is part of a long description Kemp has sent us of the discovery of Swildon's IV. We expect to publish the rest of this article and two pages of surveys of Blue Pencil Passage and Swildon's IV in the next issue of this Journal.)

SWILDON'S IV

Part 1

Swildon's IV was entered for the first time on the afternoon of 15 June 1957. This followed over two years digging at the bottom of Blue Pencil Passage.

The general lay-out of Lower Swildon's is as follows. Between Barnes' Loop and Sump I lies Tratman's Temple. The main Swildon's streamway runs W from here through Sump I, until just before Creep II, when it doubles back to take a general line just S of SE. At Sump II lies a complex of bell chambers, explored in June 1954 by the cave divers, Bob Davies and Graham Balcombe(l). This complex was called Swildon's III and the final sump, which was too tight to be dived, Sump III.

From Tratman's Temple in a generally S direction lies the muddy St. Paul's Series. This terminates in the Mud Sump and beyond lies Paradise Regained. Passages run southerly and then westerly, striking back in the general direction of the main Swildon's Streamway beyond Sump III. This is Swildon's IV, and is entered from Paradise Regained by way of Blue Pencil Passage.

Early exploration.

The discovery of Four, then, depended on the discovery of Paradise. My second caving trip in Somerset was a visit to St.Paul's in 1953 when it was new and there were gleaming white crystal pools in the floor. I noticed that the pool of water, later to become the Mud Sump, had an underwater squeeze that you could get your legs into.

St. Paul's had some fascination, it seems, for I went there on several occasions with various parties. Once I noticed that the water level in the final pool had dropped so far that there was a one inch keyhole airspace showing, with a strong draught going through. Strangely enough I wasn't excited into a frenzy of exploration by this discovery and kept quiet about it for over a year, visiting the place occasionally to see how the water level was changing. Only on that one occasion, though, did I see an air space.

Once, with Jack Waddon, I experienced the first of many scares the place has since given me. Jack went into the pool and kicked about with his feet in the squeeze, going in so far that he was just under water at his top end for an instant or two. He was, I believe, quite determined to take a breath and dive the sump feet first. As we were alone and there was no hope of rendering assistance if he got stuck (a trial pull convinced us both of that) I finally persuaded him that it would be suicide. Jack now completely agrees with me: it would have been impossible to dive the sump at that stage.

Then in 1955 I met Oliver Wells and the picture was changed. He had a penchant for wet, muddy and tight places, and was happily digging in Mayday passages and in the other muddy sump near Sump II. I suggested to him that the St. Paul's sump might repay attention. He organized the assault party (2) and successfully passed the sump. He named the system beyond "Paradise Regained" and on the second visit I gave him a hand at surveying as we explored. This was my first introduction to surveying underground, although I had done some map making in mountainous country.

Blue Pencil Passage

On the third trip through, the Mud Sump, 23 April 1955, Oliver Wells laddered the pitch in Pitch Chamber (3) and on the 24th Jack Waddon, Talbot Austin, Tom Andrews and I explored a passage on the right before Fault Chamber is reached. This finished in a squeeze that looked too tight for me: so I talked Talbot into forcing it. This is a climbing technique that I have often employed very successfully when the leader seems about to say, "I don't think it goes; would you like to have a try?" This squeeze is now known as the Bedroom Squeeze, as we slept in the passage just beyond during the 1956 August Bank Holiday working trip.

Tom and I started surveying from the squeeze while the others went on exploring. When we had got to the end, we decided to look at a little vadose stream that we had noticed going into the floor, but without surveying it, for we were tired. It wasn't a very pleasant passage, and finished with a rather tight bit that I said didn't go. But we could hear a stream beyond, a large stream, and Tom tried my talking technique on me. The squeeze led to a little drop, which led in turn to a larger one, both climbable. The little stream disappeared into a tiny, quite impassable hole from which came the roar of what seemed a river in comparison. The bad tempers that this stream passage seemed to generate led to its being called "Blue Pencil Passage".

Excitedly we surveyed from the Bedroom Squeeze back to the last known point of Oliver Wells' survey and by Monday morning we knew the answers we had probably heard the main Swildon's streamway beyond Sump III. I estimated that we were some 350 ft. from Sump II on a true bearing of about 140°. To my surprise this was received with scepticism by a surprisingly large number

of people. It was pointed out 1. that this was my first attempt at cave surveying, and I was using a method of my own that was quite different from the one normally employed, 2. that the position of Blue Pencil Passage was arrived at after combining three surveys, and opportunity for error was considerable, 3. that the Blue Pencil vadose stream was one of the little streams coming down the left bank of Swildon's II, and 4. that the stream we heard was only the little Blue Pencil stream falling a distance with the sound being magnified by the acoustics of the chamber.

Critics 1 & 2 were answered when on 16 June 1956 Tom Andrews and I took a new Grade III survey from the Mud Sump to Base Camp (4).

3. was answered by going into Swildon's II and looking at the little streams on the left bank. None were muddy, and we had stirred enough mud into the Blue Pencil stream to sink a battleship. And then, one dry day, we still heard the sound of the stream in the distance, although the Blue Pencil water had dried up. 4. was answered by taking the critics down to listen. This soon won them over to our side.

A Base Camp was established at the entrance to Blue Pencil Passage and blasting operations were started. But the original team (Wells, Chambers, Andrews and Kemp) was suddenly broken up and very little was done for a long time. Work started again in December 1955, when a load of provisions was taken down in a heroic working trip. We froze when we came out and walked back to Maine's Barn. Luckily the following week end was Christmas, and the festivities helped us to forget.

Over the August Bank Holiday 1956 Tom Andrews and I camped for nearly three days in Paradise Regained, while we attacked Blue Pencil

Passage and explored various side passages nearby (5). We looked at Upper Blue Pencil to see where the trickle came from and found a climbable pitch, whose further continuation of 40 ft. is probably climbable with care. We also recruited two enthusiasts whose continued help was to prove invaluable in later attacks: Len Dawes and George Tonkin.

The problem of helpers had been a real one (6). Many offers were made from time to time, but the difficulties of co-ordinating them from London proved intractable. We tried caving early on Sunday morning, having recruited helpers at the Hunters' the previous evening. This, although quite successful, was abandoned after several tries, for to come out of Paradise Regained utterly exhausted on a Sunday evening, only to have to clean up and drive 130 miles back to London, proved to be the last straw. The final solution was a simple one; Blue Pencil Passage became a Westminster Speleological Group dig, and organizing things could be done on the spot, in London.

There was no doubt that some of the early working trips were tough. I have a vivid memory of getting up Jacob's Ladder and waiting at the top absolutely exhausted, gathering strength to attempt the next little chimney. "You know", my companion said, "Sometimes I think we take things a bit too far." The next half hour's painful progress to the entrance proved his point. To come out exhausted like this time after time was obviously not good caving practice and the problem was examined to see what could be done about it.

One solution was to blast away the various obstacles on the way. This I resolutely opposed. The next step was to analyse the time spent underground on a working trip, and it was

found that much more time was spent getting to and from our work than on the actual dig. By getting Sherpas to ladder the pitches, take down food and bale the sumps, the actual working party, usually of three people, could whistle through to the dig in record time. Delays spent over temperamental carbide lamps were cut out by insisting on Miners' Electric Cap Lamps as standard equipment. It was very necessary too for everyone to know the way through the St.Paul's / Paradise Regained maze, and several week ends were spent in conducting parties through and showing them the dig.

By the beginning of 1957 we were ready for the final assault on the remainder of the dig. (A survey of Blue Pencil Passage will be published in the next number of this Journal.) Starting at the Pot a small passage sloped down for 14 ft. to a left hand bend. This was along the line of a calcite vein we had blasted out. The passage to the left continued for 8 ft., being 2 ft. high by 5 ins. wide. Then it took a turn to the right. We did not know what lay beyond.

Widening the passage after the left hand bend, in extremely solid rock, gave us most trouble of all. Drilling a shot hole with the usual rock drill proved quite impossible. There was no room to swing a hammer; you were working head down and could only really use one hand. There was the shallowest of depressions on the left hand wall and I tried plastering a fairly big charge onto the wall here, tamping well with mud and boulders: an inefficient way that deservedly failed to succeed. I tried a new approach and attacked a crack on the right wall, and after a bit of trouble with misfires a sizeable enlargement was made at the site of the left hand bend.

(Then a bombshell was dropped. The Police declined to renew my Bang Licence. When pressed as to the reason, they said it was on the advice of two leading Mendip spelaeologists on the grounds that a. there was danger of accidents and b. there were already enough people in the various Clubs with licences to do the work. This caused a delay of three months before this rather peculiar episode could be cleared up and I got my bang ticket once again).

So the first trip of 1957 was not till Easter. We weighed into the left hand bend again. When all the rubble had been cleared there was just room to turn round and this improved working conditions tremendously. The misfires had been caused by snagging on the firing leads when crawling out of the confined passage, and breaking the circuit. I made up a little test set, so that the circuit could be safely checked from the Pot. This obviated many laborious crawls up and down the length of Blue Pencil Passage. Half way through the Easter trip I realized with disgust that it was my birthday and that "they" would be closed before we surfaced.

Dennis Kemp.

References

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| (1) Wessex Cave Club Journal | No. 47, p. | 6 |
| (2) <i>ibid.</i> | No. 50, p. | 11 |
| (3) <i>ibid.</i> | No. 51, p. | 12 |
| (4) <i>ibid.</i> | No. 58, p. | 108 |
| (5) <i>ibid.</i> | No. 58, p. | 99 |
| (6) <i>ibid.</i> | No. 53, p. | 22 |

(The rest of this article and the two surveys are held over for the next issue of this journal.)

SOME ASPECTS OF CAVERSHIP

(With apologies to Stxphxn Pxttxr)

It is symptomatic of our day and age that, in all fields of human endeavour and thought, the original practitioners in a given field should have unwittingly left untouched some aspect of it. Such a field is Lifemanship and the omission: Cavership.

The early origins of cavership are obscure, but there is a well authenticated case tabled in the chronicles of most, if not all, of the communities in close proximity to Mountain Limestone Areas. This is the amazing-adventure-of-little- dog story which was no doubt recounted in the local hostelrys just before closing time; after all, what's a pink elephant or two compared with a prematurely albinoed dog with its whiskers scorched by the fires of hell? Another example has some connection with our sport. It was the custom among the lead miners of Mendip to determine a man's claim by the distance he could throw a pick along the seam while standing in a waist-deep hole. It was a common practice to employ a professional pick-thrower for the occasion, and an equally common ploy by a rival was to cider-up the professional and get his sense of direction confused. At worse the claim was modified by a factor "cosine theta" and at best the pick fell among other miners who would make short work of the thrower thus opening the field for a different and more lucrative man.

To come to the present day, Cavership can be considered in three phases:-

- (1) Noviceship: how to impress a novice
- (2) Clubmanship: how to impress one's peers
- (3) Dotageship: how to impress one's betters

NOVICESHIP

The basic rule of Noviceship is that THE NOVICE MUST NEVER BE ALLOWED TO GAIN ANY ADVANTAGE (THAT IS :BE ONE-UP) ON HIS LEADER. Any means to this end short of physical violence, cutting of ladders or locking him up in a cave may be employed. Suitable artifices will be detailed under the appropriate section, but it is not expected that they will often be needed. As cave scenery falls into definite types it is convenient to divide this treatise into sections, the first of which is:

Entranceship

Generally speaking it is at the entrance to a cave that the reputation of an exponent of Cavership is made or marred, and it is here that the greatest degree of finesse is required, for the novice still has the sights, sounds and smells of the everyday world about him. He should be subjected to a preliminary round of suggestions that the coming trip is an Adventure Fraught with Risks and that he will be Lucky to emerge Alive owing to his ignorance of all matters subterranean. In order to achieve this end a great play should be made on clothing ("... only twelve layers! Tut Tut!") equipment ("... this rope's none too good but it's the best I could find") Lights ("...bulbs always seem to go on the dicey bits but I've got used to it now" or "... tricky stuff, carbide") and reminiscences of previous trips ("... it took thirty-two hours to get him out. Poor Joe.")

Meanwhile of course the experienced members the party are making it quite clear that this is just a Milk Run trip for them. Should the novice show no sign of weakening urgent errands may be invented to send him back to the barn to fetch the ... gelnignite, detonators, sling swivel,

martingale etc.

Suitable counter-plays to efforts by the novice to score a one-up are:-

- (a) Novice offers or asks to go down cave first - meet with amazed glance and then turn head sorrowfully away.
- (b) Novice actually enters cave first - shout loudly "Wilf! Get on the blower to the Rescue Organization right away, will you?"

Squeezemanship

This is a difficult field in which to practice the art and should not be attempted (apart from the odd groan suggestive of excruciating torture) until some experience has been gained.

An important limitation is the possibility that the novice, being less well built than his leader, may be able to wriggle through with ease and become one-up by simply saying "What squeeze?" If it seems likely that this may happen the practitioner should arrange that he is pulled through by accomplices on the far side, performing meanwhile such mystic evolutions as twisting his ankles to the limit of movement in contrary directions "... translatory-rotational movement reduces mu, old boy" and breathing in irregular but perfectly relaxed cycles. Also the novice should be told to start in some such improbable position as keeping both hands behind his back.

Climbmanship

When any piece of rock-climbing, however short and simple, is in prospect the novice's nerves should first be tensed by allowing him to see other members of the party surreptitiously limbering

up by cracking their finger-joints, squeezing rubber balls, doing ten press-ups on a convenient rock, etc.

The next phase is the Climb Itself. At least one member of the party should make a great show of having difficulty; however he should not slip back more than twice. All members should avoid using the obvious holds, thus giving the impression that the holds are (a) not there at all, (b) unsafe.

Once the novice himself is started on the climb a useful ploy is to distract his attention by inviting him to look at some formation; this may cause him to lose balance or, if he is using acetylene, burn the backs of his hands. If there are rocks near the top of the climb the watchers, after some minutes of silence, should give a hiss of alarm and a suitable rock should be supported, quite inadequately, by not more than two fingertips. This will create the impression that the holder is only slightly less likely to fall than the boulder. Should the novice be an avowed rock-climber the emphasis should be laid on the slipperiness and instability of limestone, facts of which he will probably already be aware.

Labyrinthmanship

In any case with even two routes down the leader should halt the party with an exclamation of "Hush!" and then conduct a conversation with an imaginary party elsewhere in the cave (this other party can be represented by the sound of a stream if the leader is not a ventriloquist). The conversation should be on the lines that if the other party will be so kind as to go by the (short, wet, muddy, tricky, impossible etc.)

way the leader's party will go by the (long, crawly, tight, dicey etc.) way thereby avoiding getting nixed up at the . (Camel's Hump, Elephant's Trunk, Devil's Horn, the Skittle Alley etc.). This will strengthen the Novice's conviction that only the Skill of the Leader will save him from a Horrible Fate.

Pitchmanship

At the head of the pitch at least three times the necessary amount of ladder should be unrolled, the whole length being scrupulously inspected. When the last musical "clink" has faded into the tombs of night a regular hawser of a lifeline is produced and knotted with intricate convolutions about the novice's waist, a three-quarter weight nylon rope being meanwhile casually looped around the next man down. The handler of the lifeline should assume a grim expression and signal the novice to start; when he has at last got a foot on the ladder he should be recalled while minute adjustments to the hang of the ladder are made (an important-looking clinometer is a useful aid). When the novice is down the other members of the party descend, whistling tunelessly through their teeth, and, if the pitch is dry and the climber has a waist-loop, he can stop halfway to light cigarette.

Sumpmanship

For at least half an hour before the sump is reached the possibility of it having been flooded, silted up, blocked by a roof fall or been bereft of its guide wire should be discussed. At the scene of operations surreptitious finger-dipping with subsequent shivers can be indulged in.

The first man then enters the pool, letting his breath out explosively as the water reaches his chest and proceeds to wallow with much profanation while he expels the air from his clothes. He should then disappear, but not in a straightforward fashion; the primary submersion should be followed by paroxysms of splashing, the sudden appearances of outstretched arms and so on for some thirty seconds. Air should then be allowed to bubble up to the surface in some such sequence as the following:- Bubble-pause-bubble-pause-bubble- bubble-bubble-pause-bubble-b-u-b-b-l-e - pause .. plop.

Unfortunately the above artistry will probably be of no avail as the novice will by now be resigned to his fate and will be oblivious of such subtleties.

Acetylenelampmanship

This section has been left to last because it can be practised in any part of a cave and is not subject to any limitations of time or position. At frequent intervals, and particularly when the novice shows signs of becoming blasé, the users of acetylene lamps should subject them to one or more of the following:-

- Jet-pricking
- Inspection of water level
- Knocking carbide container on rock
- Blowing into water chamber
- Testing temperature of carbide container
- Checking for leaks at joint.
- Testing flint lighter
- Adjusting waterflow

There are, of course, also many facets of Noviceship besides those outlined above, some of

which come into the post-caving category. Examples are the production of doubtful looking meals, the coercion of the novice to do the washing up by scowling at him from the depths of chairs, and last but not least ushering him into the pub first, thereby placing him under the moral obligation to buy the first round. Good luck!

R.E.Lawder.

MENDIP NOTES

It is at about this time of the year that cavers go off to foreign parts to find bigger, if not better caves. Two parties have been exploring in Ireland during July; the U.B.S.S. (including several members of the Wessex) have been working again in N.W. Co. Clare, while Alan Fincham and the Leeds University Exploration Club have been in South Sligo. They visited this area on a preliminary excursion during April of this year and made some new discoveries in the Slieve Anierin area, which has hitherto been unexplored. An interim report of this appeared in the C.R.G. Newsletter, Nos. 66 - 67. They also explored Carrowmore Cavern, which bid fair to the title of Ireland's Deepest Cave. We hope to hear more of them later.

In the meantime the U.B.S.S. completed a survey of Faunarooska, which lies to the N.W. of Slieve Elva, and I understand that their figures for its depth are even greater (over 300 ft.) than those claimed for Carrowmore. In the fortnight they spent in Co. Clare they surveyed and plotted onto paper over three miles of cave passages, most of which had never been done before.

The longest of these was the Main Junction Gallery in Polnagollum (Slieve Elva), the end of which has not yet been reached. This passage was first entered by members of the R.A.F. College with Trevor Shaw in 1952 through a surface pot which they called Pol Ardua, but which has since been filled up. The passage to which it led ("Stubbings' Sewer") connects both with the roof of Gunman's Cave (near the main entrance to Polnagollum) and with the mile-long Gallery which runs over a hitherto unscalded waterfall down to the Main Junction.

Irish caves all seem to have been carved by the same hand. They begin with a horrid little bedding plane, open up into a tight, winding canyon passage that goes for miles, join with other similar streams to make a Main Drain that goes for several more miles and then end in a sump. After seeing several of these one longs for the beauty and variety of Swildon's.

Flooding in Swildon's Hole

On the 14th August, 1957, Swildon's had its first big flood since November 1954. Much of the shingle in the Water Rift has been shifted, so that new pot holes have opened up in awkward places. Near the bottom of the cave the water ran over the dry land, while the shingle near Sump I has shifted in such a way that one can now go round the last two corners with dry feet. Surface foam was to be seen 3 ft. above the level of the sump pool, and the neighbouring rocks have been more thoroughly washed than by any scavenging party.

Cheramodytes.

BOOK REVIEWS.

THE BATTLE OF THE MAMMOTHS

ROUFFIGNAC ou la guerre des Mammouths

by L.-R. Nougier & R. Robert (La Table Ronde, Paris,1957)

315p., illus., bibliog., £1. 6s. (1180 fr.).

The prehistoric paintings recognized in the Grotte de Rouffignac (or Miremont) last summer were the subject of a heated dispute greatly enjoyed by the French Press.

On July 26th, two Pyrenean prehistorians, Prof. Nougier and M. Romain Robert, were visiting this four-mile-long cave in the Dordogne. It had already been known and explored for centuries but the prehistorians' trained eyes detected on the walls paintings and engravings which had usually been overlooked before. The local cavers had in fact noticed them once and informed the Director of Prehistory for the Dordogne, M. Severin Blanc, but he had dismissed them contemptuously as fakes. The discoveries were now reported to the Abbé Breuil, who came from Paris to examine them and affirmed their authenticity and value. M. Blanc and the local explorers felt in honour bound to dispute this and did so with every means at their disposal, even going so far as to deny the existence of the pictures a few years before and to "admit" having painted them themselves. More and more opinions were called for from distinguished prehistorians and the genuineness of nearly all the designs was established beyond doubt by analysis of the pigment, style, nature of the engraved surfaces, superposition of dated inscriptions and newly found references to the paintings in books as old as the 16th century (long before the date when the pictures had been sworn to be non-existent).

This book is primarily an account of the dispute. It is neither scholarly nor particularly entertaining, and anyone who wishes to laugh at the quarrel would do better to buy the relevant back numbers of The Times. To a student of prehistory it is necessary only until a better book appears. The two prehistorians who first recognized the pictures write aggressively, exulting over the defeat of those who disputed their value, - "As if the opinion of an unquestionably great specialist (Breuil) could possibly be invalidated by an assertion of Bernard Pierret!" (p.215). The most valuable parts of the book are reprints from the early literature and from official documents such as reports and declarations by visiting experts.

References: The Times, July 24; August 6, 10, 28; Sept. 7, 22nd., 1956.

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RECORDS OF THE LONDON SPELAEOLOGICAL GROUP, 1, 1, 1956.

52p., plans, bibliog.' (Obtainable from S.L. Birchby, 1, Gloucester Avenue, Levenshulme, Manchester, 19, at 5s.6d. p.f.)

This publication has brought together for the first time much useful information about the dene-holes and underground quarries in the home counties. There is a convenient list of grid references but most of the other material has been published before. A later issue should include or consist of a bibliography of the caves of the whole area.

T.R.S.
4.6.57.

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