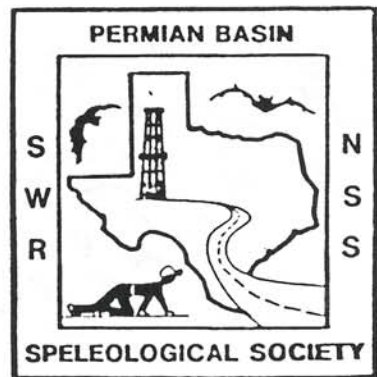
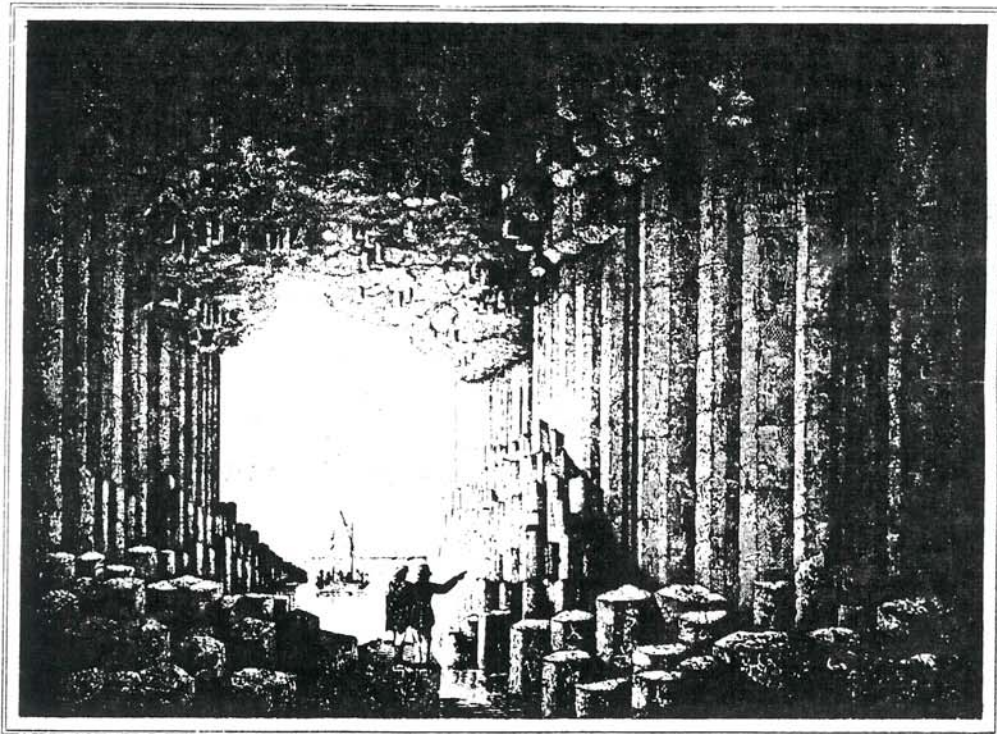
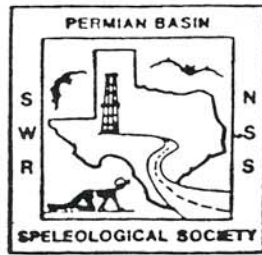


P.B.S.S. SPYLUNK



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Permian Basin Speleological Society

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MEMBERSHIP - The SPYLUNK is a quarterly publication of the Permian Basin Speleological Society (PBSS), an internal organization of the National Speleological Society. Membership, which includes the SPYLUNK, is \$4.00 a year. Checks should be made payable to the Editor. Publication dates are in January, April, July, and October. Articles, trip reports, etc., are encouraged and should be sent to the Editor as they become available. Deadline is the 10th for each of the four publication months.

MEETINGS - The PBSS meets monthly on the 3rd Thursday at 7:30 pm at Shakey's Pizza Parlor located at 3305 Andrews Highway in Midland.

SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING EVENTS - The following list is a tentative schedule for upcoming PBSS grotto events. Due to the possibility of changes, please contact one of the club members if you are interested in attending for directions and additional details.

March 19-20, 1988 Hiking and backpacking in the Ft Davis area.

April 23-24, 1988 Spider, Chimney, Hicks, Jurnigan #1 & #2.

Also planned for sometime in mid April is a GUMO trip.

This months cover: Fingal's Cave, Staffa Ireland



P.B.S.S. ELECTION RESULTS FOR 1988

Kathy Schwehr has been elected as our grotto's new President, replacing Patricia Kambesis. On behalf of the grotto, I'd like to congratulate Pat for a job well done and welcome Kathy into her new position.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

The P.B.S.S. Christmas party was held on December the 17th at the home of Jim Siegmann and Suzy Noldan. The variety of dishes and good company made for a very enjoyable evening. Their home, or rather mansion, was the perfect setting for the fairly large turn out.

HIDDEN CAVE - 9/27/87 by Jim Nance

This was to be my first trip to Hidden and only my second vertical drop. Except for my rack and chest harness everything else, including my camera and backpack, ended up in Andrews when I forgot to take it out of the back of Bill Greenlee's pickup who had left for home the night before. Borrowing from Suzy Noldan and Kathy Schwehr, I was able to gain entrance into this beautiful cave. The floor was very dark and clean. It looked like someone had vacuumed it and hand-set the formations in place. The left wall had so many formations from floor to ceiling that it appeared to be almost solid. Finding a way around it brought us into an area with some of the largest lily pad formations that I'd ever seen. The cave continued on but time turned us back towards the exit. We climbed back up the 24' drop to the mid-level which also leads to the upper section of the cave; however, we continued up the rope the remaining 40' to the surface. Suzy made the final ascent using only a safety Jumar and hand climbed out. Forgetting my water bottle, I really got thirsty about halfway up. As an aid in helping me up the rest of the way, Suzy began waving her bottle around from the surface saying that I could have a drink ONLY after I made it out. With this encouragement, I made it out and received my reward. There's quite a bit to see if one has the time. Except for a few places, the cave is in excellent condition with few signs that anyone has been there before you. While they were preparing to leave for home, I thought I'd stroll over and take a glimpse at Cottonwood Cave since I'd never been there before. From the "easy to find" stories that I'd heard about it, I failed to ask for specific directions and ended up not finding it. How I could have missed it after about 3 hours of walking around in all directions still puzzles me and the rest of the grotto. I'll be interested in seeing just how close I came to it the next time I go there.

CRF EXPEDITION - October 10-12, 1987 by Jim Nance

This was my initiation trip into the CRF as a JV (Joint Venturer). I arrived early Friday afternoon to stake out a choice bunk in the CRF cabin. Finding almost every bunk taken by the Lechuguilla group, who had been there several days before our group was to arrive,

came as quite a surprise. The two small CRF cabins just doesn't have the room to hold two separate caving groups of this size so several were forced to sleep in their vehicles or out on the porch in the cold. Hopefully, in the future, each group will have their own weekends to allow for more sleeping comfort and ease during meal preparations. Both groups contain several fine cavers and, barring the cramped quarters, everyone enjoyed visiting with each other. The Lechuguilla cavers were estatic but exhausted after returning from their cave. The 24 plus hour trips inside the cave system seemed to have little effect on them due to the major progress they were making while surveying large virgin passages which had no end in sight. The computer map they were making was constantly out of date even as they were entering the data since there was always another team still working inside the cave. Their enthusiasm was contagious as we all shared in the excitement. Our CRF group started out Saturday morning for Carlsbad Caverns to do some surveying and lead checking. One group headed towards the New Mexico Room while our group went through the main entrance to Devils Den where we jumped trail for the New Section. The entrance is hidden by breakdown from the visitors trail and involved some low crawling for about 1/2 hour and climbing up one ladder. Once inside the area known as Sand Passage, we split up into two groups. One group was to do some surveying in the Sand Passage while my group went off to check for some leads in another area. Carefully checking a breakdown wall in the large room proved to be negative. Except for a few formations, the room consisted mainly of breakdown boulders and nothing much in the way of beauty. There were, however, a few areas that had some active formations which were very nice. Deep pits and a vertical crack known as "Incredible Crack" were the main items of interest in this section. The only way to traverse this crack was to straddle a thin ledge on both sides and slowly walk lengthwise. Surveying in this area, with the bottom far below, involved positioning ones self at odd angles too close to the edge for comfort. After about 8 hours, we exited via the elevators since the bat flight was in progress at the main entrance. Three of us returned late that night to do some surveying by Devils Spring close to the entrance. We were going to use the main entrance but the bats were still flying. To avoid the poop, we used the elevators and made the long uphill trek to our assigned area. After about 2 hours, we walked towards the entrance only to find the bats still flying! We never expected them to be flying \pm 6 hours after they started. To avoid the long hike back to the elevators, we made a hasty exit, avoiding the temptation to look up.



The following item appeared in the Midland Reporter Telegram newspaper on 1-16-88.

Boys prayed they would be found in cave

AUSTIN (AP) — Five boys lost 100 feet down in a cave were rescued after praying out loud that they would never go down there again. "We prayed 20 times out loud, and then some of us slept," said 10-year-old Brandon Davis.

One of the rescuers, Bill Russell, had previously mapped the Travis County cave where the boys were found.

The youngsters shivered, cuddled, slept and prayed for about four hours before being rescued Thursday night by Russell and Craig Bittinger.

Worried parents and rescue workers cheered as the boys were led out, their clothes and faces caked with dirt, but uninjured and in good spirits.

"We prayed that if we ever got out of there, we'd never go in again," Davis said.

Along with Davis, the others rescued were Bobby Kline and Shawn Richardson, both 11, and Aaron Clemons and Matt Burden, both 10.

Officers from the Travis County sheriff's department, the Oak Hill volunteer fire department and the Manchaca Emergency Medical Services were called after relatives said they hadn't seen the boys for several hours.

Their skateboards, a bicycle and a scooter were found on the ground near the cave opening.

Shawn Richardson said he and his friends began exploring the cave about 5 p.m., and it took them 30 minutes to go deep enough to get lost.

Russell, who explores caves as a hobby, said the boys were in Maple Run Cave, part of the Goat Cove preserve, which lies along the Balcones Fault line.

LECHUGUILLA CAVE - January 1988 by Patricia Kamoesis

I attended the week long Lechuguilla Expedition in January of 1988. I was one of the 40+ cavers who converged upon the hill to survey one of the biggest, goingest caves in the Guadalupe Mountains. My first trip was to the Western Borehole. This passage was discovered towards the end of the October Expedition. At that time, cavers turned back in big booming passage due to time constraints. The end of the survey stopped at a massive breakdown slope which marked the entrance of a very large room. Roy Glaser, Steve Simms and I would be the survey team for this trip. Dave Modisett acted as roving photographer. We got underground around 11:30 Saturday morning and quickly made the familiar trek thru the Overpass to Deep Secrets and eventually to Lake Louise, located in the White Christmas Tree Room. We topped off our water bottles at the lake - as far as we knew there was no water in the Western Borehole. After negotiating the Corn Flake Climb and a short stretch of boneyard, we popped out in the ABC's room. Two of the objectives of this trip were to flag the borehole (to better delineate a trail) and to survey the passage walls

starting at station EY 25 through EY 73. The previous survey neglected to take accurate wall measurements. We taped and surveyed for several hours and as we approached the big room our adrenalin flowed. We were all in the throes of a serious case of borehole lust. The Western Borehole though quite sizeable, is not an easy straight-forward walk. There is a lot of climbing and scrambling over breakdown and because of the fragile nature of the gypsum and the numerous gypsum and aragonite formations, we had to be extremely careful how and where we stepped. As we approached station EY 73, the breakdown was replaced by calcite crusts and mamillary exfolia making travel much easier albeit "crunchy." A large stalagmite (Pillar of Hercules) dominated the passage as we approached our destination. Upon reaching EY 73 we took a break and a long drink from the jug of water that Donald G. Davis left in this area. While looking over my notes, I counted the leads we had encountered during our survey. They totaled 17 in all! The next part of the trip was to start the survey of the big room. I sketched, Roy read instruments and Steve ran tape. We did a more detailed sketch of the beginning of the room and surveyed in all leads. Roy and Steve climbed a steep talus slope and emerged in another small breakdown room. We chocked it up as a lead and continued our peripheral survey. We eventually closed a loop and then started to map up the massive breakdown blocks and into the big room. This section of cave is rather austere compared to the passage we came from. Tall arched ceilings overlook massive breakdown blocks. This room is so big we had to survey one wall at a time. Our intention was to close another loop and finish surveying up the left wall. However, everyone was starting to tire so at 1500 feet we quit. Since Roy brought his bivvy gear we were all obligated to take a 3 hour nap back in the cornflake-floored borehole. Steve and I woke up rather cold and complained and made enough noise to get Roy going. We wanted to hit the Overpass before the Apricot Pit teams did to avoid having to wait at the drops. Upon reaching the Rift, Roy dropped his glasses down an obscure, crystal lined belly crawl. I spent the next half hour retrieving them (and cussing up a storm!). We could hear people climbing out of Apricot Pit - the traffic jam we hoped to avoid was upon us. As people moved out I stopped to talk to Donald and inquire about his trip. He was tired (weren't we all) and went on to explain that he was waiting on the last caver to ascend the Apricot. I agreed to wait with him. When Joe finally made it up I could see he was more than tired - the man was trashed. The combination of not eating a good breakfast the day before along with lack of water and adequate food really took its toll on Joe. I gave him water and insisted he eat and rest before we exited. The trip out took 9 hours instead of the usual 3 1/2. When we finally made it out it was late afternoon - our total trip was 28.5 hours. While Joe and Donald climbed out, Dave Modisett awaited at the top. I took off for the cars and in my state of spaciness hiked an extra mile because I got off trail. Upon reaching the vehicles I found a note to Donald G. "If you are not out by sunset we will launch a rescue." In hopes of

averting this event, I started hiking back to the CRF huts. Within an hour, I encountered a Park vehicle with concerned people out to determine if a rescue was necessary. I explained the situation and we headed back to the parking area to pick up tired cavers. It was a long day for me and I was glad to get back and crawl into my sleeping bag. As I dozed off, thoughts of the next trip occupied my dreams.

Ed note: For those that are not familiar with Lechuguilla, the cave is located relatively close to Carlsbad Caverns. The cave itself has been known since 1914 when it was mined for its guano. It was basically known as a "small" cave up until just a few years ago. A dig began in November of 1984. Cavers broke into virgin areas in May of 1986 and the cave has been going ever since. At present, approximately 7 miles has been surveyed with no end in sight. Expedition teams must walk, hike, scramble, and the like for 6 plus hours just to get to the last survey station before they can begin their work. Because of the large borehole passage they are in, Lechuguilla is the site of one of the largest expeditions involving a new discovery currently taking place in the United States today.

to be no exception. There was a short reading of the minutes and old and new business. Then an official with the BLM talked about conservation in the Malpais. Another official with the NPS talked about the legislation of the lave tubes in the El Malpais and how the NPS management plan will affect them. Dave Belski gave the Gypkap report, Terry Bolger gave an excellent vacation/caving slide show of northern Mexico and what I enjoyed most, a slide show of the "Guads" by John Cochran. This was surely a sneak preview of heaven. We broke late for lunch and went to the Frontier Restaurant for burgers and fries. The meeting was on track at 1:00 and with the usual flickering of lights. The next speaker Carol Hill, told us how old Carlsbad Caverns is! What I want to know is when is its birthday? Then there was this really neat talk on crickets. After a short break, Dave McClurg gave a rather lengthy talk on wilderness and passed out papers and envelopes. Rick Bridges gave a report on the Lechuguilla Cave project complete with slides. Then a video taped prerecorded program by Ron Kerbo about the NPS and how wilderness proposal will effect the Lechuguilla Cave project. At this point we were out of time. We left and went to the motel, got a shower and went to the Rhodes for a great dinner



I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU NOT TO TRY TO
RAPPEL ON BUNGY!

DECEMBER WINTER TECHNICAL REGIONAL
Albuquerque, NM by Bill Bentley

Anybody who says that Albuquerque is not that far from Midland should have their head examined. Pat Hill and myself departed Midland Friday night at 5:00 and arrived in Albuquerque around 1:30 am. We stayed in a motel and awoke Saturday morning, ate breakfast at 7:30 am, and headed for the University of New Mexico. With several unplanned detours, we found the Geology Department. Regionals have a bad habit of always starting late and this would prove

party complete with pizza and cokes. I gave a talk on the Jessica rescue and was told I did ok. I don't talk well in front of people so I stared at one face and talked out loud to him. We left the party at 12:30 am. It took us 10 hours to get home. I got to see the scenic route of the Texas Panhandle. In retrospect, this should have been called the Winter Political.

CAVING IN SAN SABA COUNTY by Jim Nance

After reading, and hearing, about Pat Copelands caves near San Saba (October 1987 SPYLUNK), I headed that way on October the 30th to check them out for myself. Although several cavers were expected to show up for that weekend, only Pat and I made the trip. The camping site Pat made arrangements for was more beautiful than any place I'd ever camped at before. The deer, cardinals, wild turkey, armadillos, huge pecan trees, and the San Saba river made for a very picturesque setting. Numerous caves were all within a short driving distance which gave us time to see several of them. Except for a few on the side of a dry river bed, most were identical in nature in the fact that all were vertical cracks in the rocky ground. Unless one was fairly close, they could be easily overlooked. It is highly doubtful that many of these have been checked out since they were so numerous. Several were choked with debris and boulders and most were very narrow, but many of them appeared to be fairly deep based on rocks dropped in. Several of the ones that gave no appearance of being checked had unstable entrances and would require some rock moving to make them safe to drop. Pat and I went searching for Melvins Bat Cave which she had visited several years ago. After some looking around, we found it hidden below some mesquite trees. We chimneyed down the ± 12 feet and ducked into one of two entrances separated by a column of rock. Although the small entrance room was full of rich mulch from leaves and dirt, we didn't pay it too much attention till we started through a small crawlway and found that the passage was choked with the stuff. Apparently this cave has seen some flooding which has made it inaccessible. The tight passage would make digging efforts very difficult so we made our way back out. Pat said that this was a small, but very beautiful cave, so she was understandable disappointed. We followed the general direction of the cave and found several more vertical cracks but had no way of determining if they connected. The problem with depth and unstable entrances prevented us from dropping these till we had more people for safety. We headed over to Centipede Cave which was a deep drop. As I didn't have my vertical gear, and had problems making Pat's work for me, I rope watched from the top while she went down. Finding a dead armadillo stinking up the place on the bottom resulted in Pat changing over to her ascending gear about 15' from the bottom and climbing back out at a rapid pace. Although the caves are mostly vertical, few lead off from the bottom very far so air circulation is often poor. As I couldn't persuade Pat to bring up the offending animal, we moved on to cleaner caves. At least we weren't plagued with the usual granddaddy longleg spiders which usually inhabit the caves by the millions although we did come across several cave crickets. We came across a timid ringtail in Joe's Cave which allowed us to admire its beautiful

features from a safe distance. The porcupine that occasionally shares these quarters wasn't at home. Travis Cave was saved till last due to its muddy crawlways. Due to the dirt embankments around the bends, there was no doubt what occurred during a heavy rainstorm but today was clear so we chimneyed down the short drop and started our crawl. We came across 2 frogs which I thought was somewhat unusual for a cave. Finding a solitary bat hanging from the ± 3' ceiling was quite an unexpected surprise. Being able to observe it up close was a treat but we eased on so as to not disturb it. Several more were encountered and, except for two hugging each other for warmth, the others were spread out. This cave, like all the others, contained very few formations. The few found were small and immature. Apparently during their early development, conditions changed stopping their growth. An interesting one nearby, called Trash Cave, wasn't checked out due to the huge amount of trash leading up to the entrance. The cave is located at the bottom of a huge, deep pit which has undoubtedly been used for ages as a trash dump. The uncertain bottom and loose trash would make for extremely hazardous walking, not to mention the varmints that would be found mixed in with it. The only safe way to check it out would be to drop a rope from the top and litterally "drop in." Even then, there is probably a great deal of trash inside with wildlife that use the cave as a den considering the amount of food that is conveniently dropped just outside the entrance. Nevertheless, we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves as these caves are very unique.



I THOUGHT YOU SAID THIS WAS GOING TO BE
A FREE RAPPEL!

aving, it's good for some fireside laughter.

APTITUDE TEST

- 1.) If you went to bed at 8:00 at night and set an ordinary wind-up clock to get up at 9:00 in the morning, how many hours of sleep would this permit you to have?
- 2.) How many birthdays does the average man have?
- 3.) Why can't a man living in Winston-Salem, North Carolina be buried west of the Mississippi River?
- 4.) If you had only one match and entered a room in which there was a kerosene lamp, an oil heater, and a wood burning stove, which would you light first?
- 5.) Some months have 30 days, some have 31; how many months have 28 days.
- 6.) If a doctor gave you three pills and told you to take one every half hour, how long would they last you?
- 7.) A man builds a house with four sides to it. The house is rectangular in shape, each side having a southern exposure. A big bear comes wandering by. What color is the bear?
- 8.) How far can a dog run into the woods?
- 9.) I have in my hand two U.S. coins which total 55c in value. One is not a nickel. What are the two coins?
- 10.) A farmer had 17 sheep. All but 9 died. How many did he have left?
- 11.) Divide 30 by one-half and add 10. What is the answer?
- 12.) An archaeologist claimed he found some gold coins dated 49 B.C. Do you think he did? Why?
- 13.) How many animals of each specie did Moses take aboard the ark with him?
- 14.) Is it legal in Texas for a man to marry his widow's sister?

* * * * *

ANSWERS

- 1.) You would get 1 hour of sleep. A wind-up clock is based on 12 hours. A clock set at 8 would go off at 9 regardless of am or pm.
- 2.) One. A person has only one birth day, meaning the day they were born.
- 3.) Because he is still living.
- 4.) The match.
- 5.) Twelve. Every month has at least 28 days.
- 6.) One hour. You would take one hour, one in half an hour, and the last one on the hour.
- 7.) White. The bear would be a polar bear as you are at the North Pole.
- 8.) Half-way. Afterwards the dog is running out of the woods.
- 9.) 50c and a nickel. Key word is "one is not" a nickel.
- 10.) Nine.
- 11.) 70. Formula is to divide 30 by .5 which equals 60. Adding 10 equals 70.
- 12.) No. No coin would have B.C. on it as they didn't know their coins were minted prior to the birth of Christ.
- 13.) None. It was Noah who brought the animals into the ark.
- 14.) Hardly, considering he would be dead and unable to marry anyone.

* * * * *

TEST YOUR PERCEPTION

First read the sentence enclosed in the box below.

FINISHED FILES ARE THE RESULT OF YEARS OF SCIENTIFIC STUDY COMBINED WITH THE EXPERIENCE OF MANY YEARS.

Now count the F's in that sentence. Check once again to be sure of your count.



There are 6 F's

With Winter still upon us, some "not so obvious" factors that can give hypothermia a foothold is given based on several medical sources.

Fat or Thin - Persons that diet, or tend to remain on the thin side, have less insulation and fat cells which convert into heat. If you are dieting or just naturally thin, you should eat foods or snacks that are high in calories which will not only give you a boost in energy but provide natural warmth. Weight gain is negligible since caving in itself will probably end up burning off more calories that you will take in.

Fluid Intake - Loss of body fluids is a natural result of breathing, perspiration, and expulsion of waste matter. The harder the body works out, the quicker the loss so one should be sure to have plenty of liquids, preferably water, along while outdoors. Some liquids, like coffee, can increase the kidneys output making one more prone to dehydration. Such liquids should be taken in moderation prior to an outing. Failure to replenish these fluids can result in a reduction in blood volume making one more vulnerable to hypothermia in cold climates.

One for the Road - For some, alcohol is as much a part of the trip as the trip itself. Most, however, avoid its use prior to entering a cave for reasons of safety, but there is another reason. Alcohol gives the "illusion" of warmth but it is only just an illusion. Alcohol consumption causes the blood vessels to dilate and rush blood to the skin. By doing so, blood is taken away from the inner organs where it is needed most.

High & Dry - Although many people prefer a central air conditioner in their homes, an evaporative system can be mighty cool. The body works much like an evaporative cooler when it perspires. When sweat evaporates, it absorbs heat and cools the body. Perspiration, being natural and healthy, is unavoidable but measures should be taken so as to not allow hypothermia to set in during wintertime hiking or exploring a cold, damp cave. Loose, multiple garments help to trap and warm the air between them. It also gives one the ability to shed layers as conditions warrant. To prevent the outside air from penetrating and making you feel like an air conditioner, a thin outer shell jacket or wind-breaker can help. Since the extremities usually feel the cold quicker, care should be taken in the gloves and boots you decide to wear.

HYPOTHERMIA WARNING SIGNALS

Mild - Shivering and frequent urination. Shivering is the body's way of generating heat by speeding up your metabolism. Frequent urination is a result of the kidneys increased activity. Warm up by whatever means are available; increasing your clothes, drinking a warmed liquid, or get out of the offending element.

Moderate - Persons will tend to become clumsy, confused, lose interest in the activity for no apparent reason, and/or display a negative attitude. Since he or she is probably not aware of what's happening, the group should take note of these symptoms and attempt to correct the problem before it worsens and everyone becomes involved in a life threatening rescue. Again, whatever it takes to re-warm them should be the priority. After their mental state improves, they should be escorted to a warmer environment to prevent the symptoms from returning. Their body is already weakened from the experience which makes them susceptible for a relapse if they remain in the same area which brought about the problem in the first place.

Serious - The person will cease to shiver and lose consciousness. Rather than trying to re-warm them at this point, it is medically recommended that no time be lost in getting them to a medical facility as quickly as possible. Vital signs should be monitored while enroute in case CPR becomes necessary. Providing warmth should be done while enroute to a hospital rather than on site since this is an emergency situation. Nothing should be given by mouth by rescuers when hypothermia becomes this serious.

Since the majority of cave explorations involve two or more persons, each member should be aware of the functions and actions of the others in the group so as to catch hypothermia, or any other medical problem, in the early stages where treatment is often simple.

Teamwork is more than just doing things together, it is also looking out for one another.

Divers emerge after month exploring prehistory

WAKULLA SPRINGS, Fla. (AP) — Divers from several countries concluded a month of exploration Friday that took them deeper than any human had ever gone into the 35 million-year-old limestone caverns beneath this former Tarzan movie set.

The team found puzzling mastodon bones, caught exotic species of crustaceans that live without light and completed tests of a "rebreather" device that allows a diver to stay underwater for 24 hours without new air.

"We've sampled rocks deeper than any humans have ever collected via cave diving," said diver Wes Skiles. "We also know now more than we ever knew about where these caves are forming within the limestone and why."

Team members found and penetrated four separate caverns extending 2,500 to 3,400 feet laterally from

the springs' mouth. The average depth of the chambers ranges from 260 feet to 300 feet, said diver Paul DeLoach.

Backed by the National Geographic Society and two dozen corporations, the \$500,000 expedition will chronicle its explorations in the pages of the society's magazines.

In the meantime, team members would announce only a few findings until their research could be analyzed.

"We've come up with some real important information that I don't think we thought at the beginning of the project that we would come in contact with," said Skiles.

The last great expedition into the cave was in the 1950s, when a diver reached 700 feet back toward the lightless source of the Wakulla River, a clean, cool waterway streaming to the Gulf of Mexico.

Divers have found great underwa-

ter rooms with 100-foot walls and floors littered by bones from mastodons and other ice-age mammals, presenting a mystery as to how they got there. Similar bones were found 30 years ago, but other bones have been discovered at greater depths this time.

"At this point I wouldn't say we know any more than we've known for the past 30 years; the bones are there," said Skiles.

He said measurements indicate water in some caverns requires three or four days to travel from one end to the other, indicating the enormous size of the rooms.

Located about 13 miles south of Tallahassee, Wakulla Springs and its surrounding park have been a backdrop before for exotic happenings.

Parts of several Tarzan of the Apes movies were filmed here in the 1930s, with the alligator-filled waters and jungle-like vegetation providing a perfect natural set.

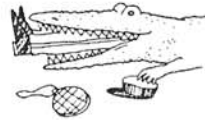
CAVING TRIVIA



Employed by the Government, it hides in caves and keeps up with the movement of cavers. Would-be vandals have reported hearing a mysterious voice saying, "go ahead, make my day."



Normally found in China, cavers have told tales of finding these persons in those "really deep" caves.



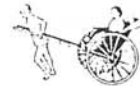
Found in many caves across the U.S. Its food source tends to be cavers attempting to negotiate a sump or cross pools of water in the cave.



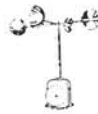
Often used as a sign of victory or gesture of approval. Has also been known to have been used by trip leaders in telling the ones lagging behind that they have just 2 seconds to get their butt in gear.



An item sometimes packed by smart cavers who know ahead of time that the cave has bad air or can expect to be behind a caver who had beans the night before.



Courtesy extended by a novice to the trip leader who brought the gear and will hopefully show him the way back out of the cave later on.



Used to measure the velocity of the wind inside or outside a cave or the hot air coming from a "know it all" caver.



Former problem, usually associated with female cavers, who thought a potted plant would help brighten up a cave.



A useful device, imposed by caving newsletter editors, for persons failing to submit their trip reports in on time so that the publication can be mailed out on time.



Experienced caver pastime while waiting at the bottom of a drop while less experienced persons inch their way back up the rope.

MOSS & WHITEFACE CAVES, San Saba County
1-30-88 by Jim Nance

Pat Copeland, her son Shawn and his friend Bryan, and I got together for a full day of caving in the San Saba area. While Shawn showed Bryan around in Joe's Cave, Pat and I searched for new leads in the area but found none. Afterwards, we drove over to Moss Cave. The area was filled with vertical pits, many of which showed no signs of previous entry. Most were fairly close to a cave known as Bad Air Cave which had presented serious problems to unaware cavers in the past. Moss Cave was tinted a beautiful color of green due to the growth of moss. Being dry, it was no longer slippery as in previous times. The 25 foot drop gave me a chance to try out my new vertical gear which worked perfectly. This was Bryan's first vertical drop which he did real well. Except for 7 bats, there wasn't much else to see in this small cave pit. We moved on over to Whiteface Cave which is the most extensive cave system in San Saba County that I've seen. Although the entrance is not vertical, Pat rigged her rope to a tree and ran it inside for a handline due to the steep slope. Once through the entrance, one comes to a small chamber which had a couple of sleeping bats. A small hole against one of the walls led into the cave. The cave was very warm which was probably due to the tremendous quantity of bat guano piled throughout the cave. Some mounds were approx 25 feet high and 30 yards across so this cave either did, or still has, a very large bat population. Although there was no smell, the consistency was that of dark coffee grounds which made it like quicksand. The cave keeps going down to a depth of about 300 feet. Finding ways around deep pits without having to rig them was a constant challenge but Pat knew the way. At the bottom, or at least as far as we could go, was a beautiful green tinted river. The water was crystal clear and appeared to be very deep. One could see massive boulders in it that continued on down with some visible passages. Based on Pat's recent trips, the river level seems to change very often. Formations in the cave mainly consisted of small soda straws, dried up curtains, one 4' stalagmite, and walls with hairy type features. Guano covered most everything. Once back up to the upper level, we headed off to look at a section Pat calls the "pretty" area. The ceiling came down quickly putting us on our stomachs for the first time. Flowstone and coral shell stalactites covered the area. Its small space was free of the guano much to my relief. The heat was a real energy sapper so we made our way back up the handline to the outside. Being soaked with sweat, and hitting the cool, windy air outside, was a real eye-opener. After changing clothes we headed back into town for hamburgers and a nice warm shower.

Spelunkers emerge after 48 days in cave

ANCONA, Italy (AP) — After 48 dark and chilly days among stalactites and stalagmites, 14 spelunkers emerged Monday night from a cave in the Apennine mountains.

The underground stay was part of an experiment in living in total isolation from the outside world, and was headed by sociologist Maurizio Montalini, who last year claimed a world record when he spent 210 days underground in the same cave. The experiment started Dec. 14 when an original group of 15 cave enthusiasts descended into the limestone "Cave of the Wind" 597 feet underground in the mountains rising above this Adriatic port city.

1988 CARLSBAD CAVERN RESTORATION FIELD CAMP by Jim Nance

This annual event, sponsored by the GRF, NPS, and NSS, will be held in June during the week of the 6th through the 10th. Cavers from all over will gather together for a week of work and fun. Volunteers are split up into groups, each having an assigned work area. Personnel are given small-hand spades, buckets, wire brushes, toothbrushes, and the like to work with in an effort to bring parts of the cave back to its original appearance. Back in the 1920's and 1930's, when dirt trails were being constructed, the idea was to put the tourist as close to the formations as possible. I guess it was considered good business to allow persons to touch and take souvenirs home with them. Fortunately, conservation came into the act when it was realized what this "good gesture" was doing to the cave. Current trails were built farther away but still plenty close enough for the enjoyment of everyone. These old dirt trails are now nothing more than a part of Carlsbad Caverns history. They are also an eyesore since the trails, and the debris tossed alongside, filled in many of the beautiful areas. Persons visiting the cave are surprised to learn that a particular flat area is usually not flat at all but consist of rough, knobby formations buried under several feet of soil. Volunteers working to remove this debris are often surprised themselves to find out what is below. Last year, a small twin pool was uncovered that had been hidden for more than 50 years. A few old pennies were found in the water giving the impression that this was an old wishing well. With money being so tight back then, one can only wonder who did the tossing and what their wishes were. These coins are now displayed in the visitors center. As the restoration progresses, one begins to see the cave in the way that it was created. Wheelbarrows are used to put the debris back into the original pits, all of which are hidden from view. A lot of hard work goes into this event but except for a few comments of sore bodies, no complainants are ever voiced to my knowledge. Visitors to the cave are amazed that such a group would gather together for a week of hard labor with no pay, use up vacation time, and in fact must pay a fee for the opportunity to work here. All comments are favorable due to the work that's being done, but most think we're a little crazy. There's probably some truth to that. The fact that it is on a volunteer basis is nice in that it brings in people who want to

work in order to achieve a common goal in a relatively short period of time without expecting anything in return. Seeing the "before" and "after" is a reward that one has to experience in order to understand. Later in the evening after dinner, those that still have some energy gather up for trips to off-trail regions of the cave never before seen by the general public. Needless to say, each day is a long and full one but everyone is always ready to go back to work the next morning. Persons wishing to take part in this rewarding, worthwhile event should write Dick Venters at 410 Stallion Road in Rio Rancho, NM 87124 for additional details and to reserve a place for them. A \$10.00 deposit is required to hold your reservation. The balance (\$25.00 last year) is due upon arrival at Carlsbad Caverns.

Second Mapping trip to Three Fingers
by Patricia Kambesis

The last weekend in January marked our second "official" survey trip to Three Fingers Cave. Terry Bolger, Bill Greenlee and I were to meet Las Cruces cavers at Three Fingers camp. We pulled in rather late and the Goomba brothers insisted on waking everyone up with wild river music and some goomba (you had to be there).

Saturday morning Terry and Bill and I hiked to the entrance and quickly made our way to the TT survey. This area, located near Three Fingers Hall, is a complex breakdown maze section and we had mapped some of it on our last trip. We used TTA as our survey designation for tie in and proceeded to spend the next several hours mapping loops and connections in this confusing maze. We mapped a lot of cave but never got very far from our first station. We poked into all the little holes we encountered to find that everything is interconnected. Oh well, it was time for lunch anyway. This was Mexican day in Three Fingers and for lunch we featured chicken burritos with hot sauce and cheese. Our guest speaker was L. Ron Hoover, from Frank Zappa's Church of Applianceology (you had to be there.)

We continued mapping, taking a short down-climbable route which eventually led to a breakdown room that we mapped on the previous trip. We pushed (and surveyed of course) the one remaining lead off this room only to discover ourselves back at our lunch stop. Terry located a small hole in the wall and we continued to a junction. South led to another set of rooms. We went

north through a series of small passages and boneyard to more breakdown. We did see some interesting reef rock with many small fossils. There were many more leads than we could push or cared to survey on this trip so after 300 meters we called it a day.

We had some trouble with the gate - we had it oriented in the wrong three holes and therefore could not lock up that night, although we did return the next day and locked up. Everyone collectively whimpered as we looked up to see the long, steep hike back to the trucks. The night was warm and windy and we slept under the stars.

SO MUCH
KARST

SO LITTLE
TIME
