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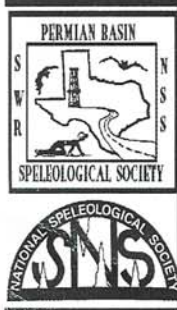
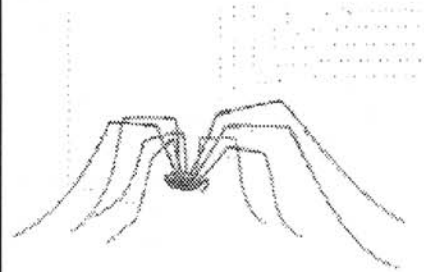


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Happy Caving

Next Meeting: PBSS

The next official meeting of the Permian Basin Speleological Society will be on Tuesday, January 9, 1996 at 7:00 PM in the back meeting room at Murry's Delicatessen which is located at 3211 West Wadley in Midland, Texas. If you need directions or more information call our official contact person Walter Feaster @ 915-699-7049. The meeting starts about 7:00 PM or there abouts, eating and caver style socializing usually begins at 6:30 PM and is optional. Topic of discussion will hopefully be future cave trips for 96. Hope to see every one there.



***** ATTENTION, READ THIS*****

If your name appears below I have not recieved your 96 dues and this will be your last newsletter!

- | | | | | |
|------------|---------|--------|------------|---------|
| Abernathy, | Cullen | L.Gray | Mahan | Selman |
| J. Anderle | K.Day | S.Gray | McArthur | Terrett |
| Benson | R.Day | Hill | Montgomery | |
| D.Bently | Fincher | Hogan | Pando | |
| Carouth | Franks | Kirby | C.Russell | |
| K.Coffin | Glasson | Lamen | S.Russell | |

Future Cave Trips: Also other events from PBSS and other grottos.

January 13-14 1996. Trip to Amazing Maze cave. Contact Walter Feaster @ 915-699-7049 or Gralin Coffin @ 915-682-1904

January 27, Arizona Regional Phoenix, (SWR). Contact Ray Keeler @ 602-561-2917

August 3-9, 1996-NSS Convention, Salida, Colorado. NSS Convention Committee, c/o Skip Withrow, 5404 South Walden, St. Aurora, CO. 80015, (303)693-0997

Most all of this material was stolen from various and sometimes reliable caving newsletters in the Southwestern Region and surrounding area, including the TSA's "Activities Newsletter"

***** Denotes a PBSS club Trip...

Madonna Survey Trips, contact: Mike Huber @ 505-887-6065

Carlsbat Cavers, contact Phyllis Weston @ 505-887-6790 for restoration educational programs, off trail trips.

Honey Creek, contact: Mark Minton @ 512-847-3829

IF YOU HAVE ANY CAVING TRIPS PLANNED, PLEASE LET THE EDITOR KNOW AND HE WILL PUBLISH THEM HERE IN THIS SPACE!.....

W. I. P. P. Site Trip Canceled

Due to our government closing all non-essential agencies, we could not contact the WIPP site to make arrangements. Also I have been trying to contact the BLM and have not been successful. We will try again some other time.

T.C.M.A. Acquires World Wide Web Site

The Texas Cave Management Association now has a home page on the World Wide Web. For all you non computer types this means they are on the Internet. If you don't know what the Internet is you may want to skip this article.

The T.C.M.A. home page will have hypertext links to several T.C.M.A. and other cave related topics. Also hypertext can be used to send instant e-mail to TCMA contacts. The home page can provide excerpts from the TCMA news letter, that seems to come out maybe once a year.

A web site will help in the better flow of information about TCMA activities and services. I wish we, the PBSS, could have something like this.

TCMA web site is <http://www.io.com/~mgrimm> ...

PBSS Welcomes:

We would like to welcome Ruel Metcalf from Big Spring, Texas. Ruel is our most recent new member. We are looking forward to going caving with you.

I will be publishing our membership list next month. Until then cave softly. Walter Feaster NSS # 31624.

Letter to the Editor

This letter is in response to a recent letter written by Gralin regarding attendance at the PBSS goat roast and the reaction of members to Gralin's letter. We do believe apologies are due to Noel, Dolly, and Noel's brother, who were out considerable time and expense preparing food for those of us who didn't show.

We would like to point out that we were having to hit a moving target, with regard to the date of the goat roast. Because Amazing Maze was off limits the date was changed at least once. One member had planned his work schedule so he could attend the goat roast but was on call the actual night it occurred. Another member planned two trips around the goat roast as originally scheduled. A third member actually intended to miss the funeral of an in-law so he could go to Andrews, but came down sick at the last moment. A fourth member, who is mentally unstable and dangerous when depressed, was in a sullen mood that day. Ironically, the two people who had iron-clad excuses were the maddest at Gralin, whose letter suffered from an unfortunate choice of words. Now Gralin is threatening to quit, along with the most proficient caver in PBSS and the keenest caver in PBSS. The loss of any one of the three would be a severe blow to PBSS. We will not allow this to happen. We have paid 1996 dues for two members so they cannot quit. We would like to point out that one of us is well-armed and the other is insane, so you should not mess with us and would be wise to accede to our wishes.

Sincerely,

Steve Franks & Ken Kamon

A note from the PBSS Founder, Past President, Past Vice-President, Past Secretary, Past Treasurer, and recently former Newsletter Editor...

It is not often, as we go through life that the opportunity to keep from doing something wrong presents itself and more often than not poor judgment wins out over hind sight.

I received my December 95' PBSS Newsletter and was shocked to read the article from the current Vice-President. I had always taken pride in being the co-founder of this club, now I am not so sure about that any more. I myself at times in the past have probably felt a lot like the current Vice President did, when I went on a caving club trips and I was the only one there. And believe me it has happened a lot, not only to me but to others. I simply accepted this as being a part of any club that has members, and I have been in a few. If there is one thing I have learned over the years is that you don't make people mad and then expect them to show up and start participating in club functions. An equal effort should have been turned toward recruiting new members. This article that has now gone out via the mail service to both Landowners and Government officials could have severe ramifications that reach far beyond the people who are guilty of apathy. (For you see these people wouldn't get the message if you taped it to a ball peen hammer and hit them over the head with it!) It also was mailed out to not just current members, but prospective members and who knows who all might read "The Hole News". I for one, as should be all of the PBSS members, am concerned and have real serious misgivings about even being associated with such an organization. It would be a crying shame if permission to enter a cave was denied by a private landowner or a government cave specialist for the simple reason that he or she was offended at being called an asshole in print! Remember now, in the article everyone is guilty and did not show up at the goat roast on purpose!

So as I read it over and over I ask myself "what good has come from this?" and I keep coming up with the same answer "nothing!" So then I ask myself what was the point? Since it was aimed at, and accused everyone in the club, I can't find any thing other than a single purpose, an that is to make the members mad. This might not be the intention of the current Vice-President and of this article at all, but the writing is there in plain black and white. I was not fortunate enough to attend the last club meeting, and since excuses don't seem to be worth anything any more, I won't bore the current Vice-President with mine now, goodness knows he has certainly missed his share. I wonder what part of the anatomy he considers himself for missing the meetings. Now I was told that at the meeting the current Vice-President had said that he didn't really intend this article for those with valid excuses, so then I ask, why did he not say this in the first place? He was also reported to have said that he would not retract one word of the article. Then why? I ask if he didn't really mean it for those of us who had valid excuses is it so difficult to print a retraction? I don't know?, perhaps it is stubborn pride? I really don't know? I can't understand what would make an officer of the club attempt to alienate all of the members at such a critical time when we need new members. In the past, at club functions as well as at caving trips, most of the important and really successful functions have been on a RSVP phone call basis.

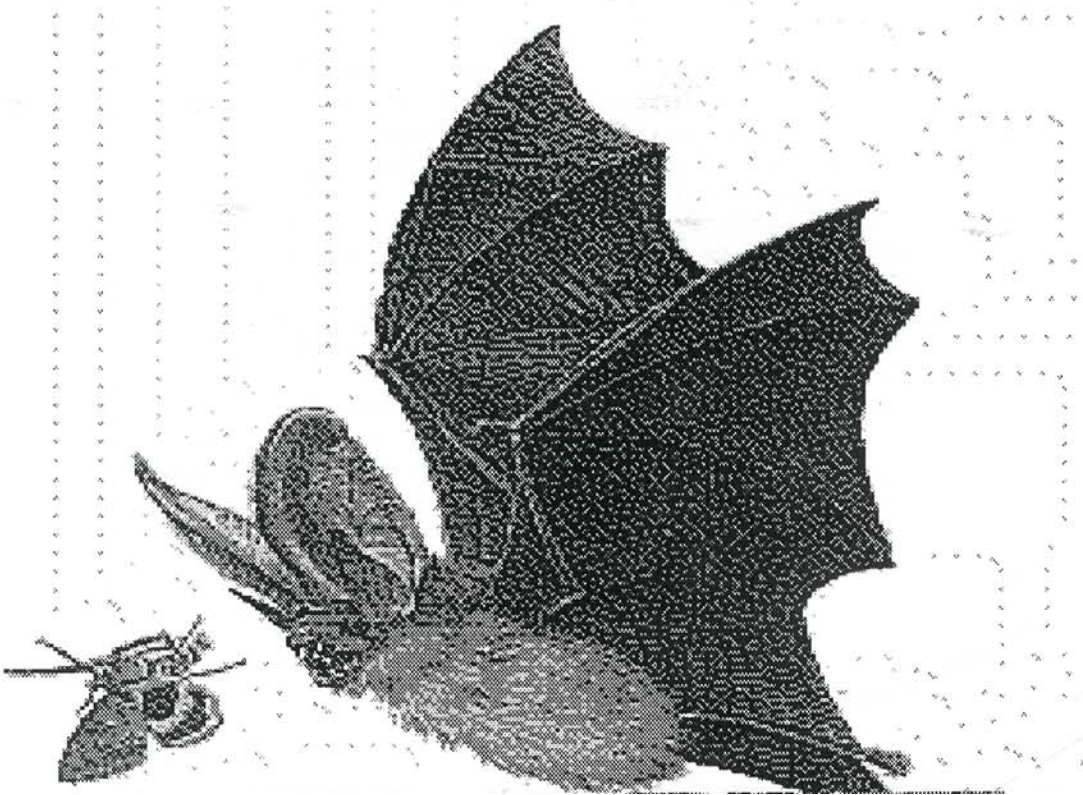
The really sad part about this was I did have a choice to either attend the goat roast and lose my job, or to stay in town and work, I chose my job. For you see I don't have my own business that I can shut down at a moments whim. I offer no apologies for my not being there at the goat roast, (believe me I would have rather have been there than working!) but I never at any time told any one that I would be there and that is why I take offense to being accused tried and convicted in print. So with that in mind I am making a choice, a very difficult choice, a very emotional and sad choice, and probably one that I will live to regret, but only time will tell, and my choice is to not not renew my membership with PBSS until I see a printed retraction. This is not so much for me, but for all the other assholes/members who were also so unjustly crucified in the article in question. For Noel, my friend I hope that you have the best success with this caving club in the future as your going to need it. I bid you all farewell and cave safely.

Sincerely,
Bill Bentley NSS # 21977

BILL BENTLEY & DONNIE
 400 EASTWOOD DR
 MIDLAND TX 79703 5308



The Permian Basin Speleological Society
 c/o Walter Feaster
 4307 Harvard Ave.
 Midland, The Republic of Texas 79703 4847 71



MR. BILL,

WE'VE BEEN FRIENDS & FELLOW
CARRIERS FOR A LONG TIME.

AND OTHER THAN WALTER I'VE
PROBABLY CARED W/ YOU MORE

THAN ANYONE ELSE. I VALUE

YOUR FRIENDSHIP AND HOPE

THAT MY EXPLANATION &

APPOLOGY WILL REMOVE

ANY PROBLEMS

GOOD CARING

Shirley

This open letter to the membership of the Permian Basin Speleological Society comes as the second and last response from me as an officer of this club. It relates to, of course, the article entitled A Note From The Vice-President... printed in the December, 1995 edition of the Hole News (Volume 11, Number 10).

Although the words have been said and nothing can retract ones memory, I will try my best to explain my actions and convince everyone who read the aforementioned article that they (my actions) were not of malice. With this attempt I also hope to smooth over any feathers or hurt feelings I may have ruffled in my attempt, crude as it may have seemed for some, to get the attention of the PBSS membership that we, I feel, most likely not only hurt the feelings of our president and family but that we were "dying on the vine" if our participation in this event was any reflection of our coming year.

I have been reminded that not all of you out there in pbsland know me as well as some. Even some of those that I felt "did", I guess really didn't. My use of the word that some took offence to was really not meant in that context and I believe that those out there that do know me know that I have before made similar remarks and meant no malice. Mr. Bill, as I always call him, (Bentley) seemed to think that I did this only to make "...the members mad". I did not- just to make them think. Steve and Ken were probably a lot closer with "...Gralin, whose letter suffered from an unfortunate choice of words".

One last point of explanation. I did include every one because I did expect everyone to reflect on the situation. That was all the more reason that no one was singled out and called any name, body part or otherwise because it was merely a Think Letter. My thinking was clear at the time... I guess not. As our Founder said I have made plenty of mistakes and it appears that this is one of them but I think that everyone is in that boat with me also. We've all done our share.

In conclusion, I made the comment that I would not retract the statements in the article. I also didn't think that those statements would escalate to a point of losing friendships or members in the PBSS. I was wrong on both counts. I regard all the folks in the PBSS as some of the best friends I have. Therefore, to anyone who did take offence or took personally any comment contained in the above stated article, please accept my sincere appologies. And especially to my good friends Jan, Chuck and Mr. Bill, I say LET'S GO CAVING!

Finally, please accept my resignation as 1996 Vice-President of the Permian Basin Speleological Society. Our club probably does not need someone like me in that position. I did not threaten to quit the PBSS, I merely said that if it was in the best interest of the club for me to quit I would do so. The folks mentioned above have done a lot more for this club than I and I think enough of them and this organization to leave, myself before they should even consider it. I am not quitting, unless I am ask to do so...I don't feel that just quitting unless it is at the request of the membership would serve a purpose. I still have a nonending case of cave feverand hope to be able to try and solve it with all of you.

Gralin L. Coffin, NSS #~~22471~~
33471

ps:

This letter or special addition of The Hole News as I would like to think of it was sent at this time to hopefully end what has turned out to be a nightmare for me. I would like to note however, that it was printed and mailed by me and no club funds were used to try and settle my problems.

gc