



The Hole News

November 1996

Special Color Edition

The Monthly Publication Of The Permian Basin Speleological Society



November 1996

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THE MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE PERMIAN BASIN SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

This issue only of *"The Hole News"* is edited on 80486 100 MHz IBM PC utilizing Microsoft Publisher Version 3.0 for Windows 95 desktop publishing program. The editor will accept modem transfer (28.8kb N81) or 5 1/4 and 3 1/2 floppy disks with *.txt, .pub, .rtf, .doc, .wps, and .wri formats for trip reports and *.bmp, .pcx, .tif, .pcd, .gif, .tga, .clp, .cut, .dib, .iff, .img, .jas, .jif, .jpg, .lbm, .mac, .msp, .pic, .rle, .wmf, .wpg, and .cdr formats for graphics. However typed or handwritten submissions as well as hand drawn graphics are also welcome. All are greatly appreciated. Contact the editor @ 915-697-3079 after 5 p.m. Fax line-(915)520-0375, any time.



This issue only of *"The Hole News"* is the monthly publication of the Permian Basin Speleological Society. Articles and cartoons maybe reproduced by cave oriented publications that exchange newsletters with PBSS, as long as proper credit is given to the author. Items for this newsletter can be sent to the Chief Editor, *"The Hole News"*, c/o Bill Bentley, 400 Eastwood Drive, Midland, Texas 79703-5308. Regular membership dues are only \$10.00 and includes one voting right, associate membership is \$ 5.00 and does not include a newsletter. Dues should be sent to PBSS Treasurer /Secretary c/o Walter Feaster, 4307 Harvard, Midland, Texas 79703-4847. If you're interested in caving or even if you think you might like to try it, then contact Noel Pando at (915)-523-9294. Or if you are not from this area and some how through circumstances beyond you're control or ours found a copy of *"The Hole News"* then you should contact the National Speleological Society at 2813 Cave Avenue, Huntsville Alabama, 35810-4431. **Cave Safely**

Next Meeting: PBSS

The next official meeting of the Permian Basin Speleological Society will be held on **Tuesday, November 12th, 1996 at 7:00 PM** in the back meeting room of **Murry's Delicatessen**. Murry's is located at **3211 West Wadley, Midland, Texas**.

Our Agenda

We will be the counting of the ballots for club officers. You might want to be there so you will know if you have been elected.

Walter will be collecting the **97** dues.

There will be information about our clubs future trips to more caves. This might be a good time for suggestions for the **97** year trip planning calendar.

Try to attend as this should be an interesting and informative meeting.

If you need more directions or information call our official contact person, **Walter Feaster @ 915-559-3297, or 694-1824**.

Have Fun & Cave Safely



For those of you that are on the World Wide Web, please visit our Web Site at:

<http://www.apex2000.net/personal/bb2145/>

[pbss.htm](http://www.apex2000.net/personal/bb2145/pbss.htm)



About the cover, the cover picture was taken in August 96 by Bill Bentley from the plains of Southeastern New Mexico looking back at the Guadalupe Mountains of Texas with a Sony CDD-TV21 NTSC Video Camera and converted to digital graphics

Future Cave Trips: **ALSO OTHER EVENTS FROM PBSS AND OTHER GROTTOS.**

November 12th, 1996 PBSS Meeting, Murrys Contact: Walter Feaster 915-559-3297 or 915-694-1824

November 23rd, 1996 PBSS Vertical Rescue Training, Andrews High School Gym, conducted by Bill Martin, Contact: Noel Pando @915-523-9294 for more information. *****

November 28-Dec. 1 CRF Thanksgiving Expedition: Surveying and restoration. Contact Erik Niemeyer (personnel manager) @505-298-8223 H, or 505-988-6863 W.

December 7th, 1996 Southwestern Region, NSS Winter Technical Regional, Carlsbad Library Annex. Contact: Carol Belski @505-885-6168 e-mail at: belski@caverns.com

December ?(TBA) Amazing Maze Cave Trip...Contact Gralin Coffin at 915-682-1904 or Walter Feaster at 915- 559-3297

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

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

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

Amazing Maze: TCMA cave. Contact Gralin Coffin @915-682-1904, or Walter Feaster @ 915-559-3297 or 915-694-1824.

Colorado Bend State Park: Contact Ed Young 915-682-3449 or Terry Holsinger 512-443-4241 or Dale Barnard 512-452-5709.

Fitton Cave Survey: Contact Pete Lindsley @ 214-727-2497 or e-mail lindsley@mcopn.dseg.ti.com

Government Canyon Karst Project: Contact George Veni 210-558-4403 or e-mail kveni@tent.edu

Honey Creek Cave: Contact Mark Minton 512-847-7422.

Madonna Restoration Trips: Contact Mike Huber @ 505-885-8898.

Mystic Cave Survey: Contact Woodrow Thomas @ 903-395-4431 or e-mail wwthomas@tenet.edu

0-9 Well: TCMA cave. Contact Walter Feaster @ 915-559-3297 or 915-694-1824. (CLOSED UNTIL NEXT SPRING).

Powell's Cave Survey: Contact Terry Holsinger @ 512-443-4241.

Robber Baron Cave: TCMA cave. Contact James Loftin @ 210-731-9392.

Whirlpool and Lost Oasis: TCMA caves. Contact Nico Hauwert @ 512-282-8441.

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

DUES ARE DUE!

Walter Feaster will have his (hopefully cleaned) hat out at the next meeting and will be asking for dues. The regular membership dues is **\$10.00** a year and gets you the right to vote and receive a newsletter. Associate or family membership is **\$5.00** and does not include a newsletter. Remember **NO DUES means NO NEWSLETTER!**



PBSS Elections Are Here

Included with the mailing of this issue is the official PBSS ballots please return or bring them to the November meeting. We will be counting ballots, so it is important that you be there! You never know, you might get elected if your not there!

CALL FOR PAPERS!

**The Southwestern Region,
NSS Winter Technical Regional
December 7, 1996
Carlsbad Library Annex
Oral presentations requested on
CAVE RELATED:**

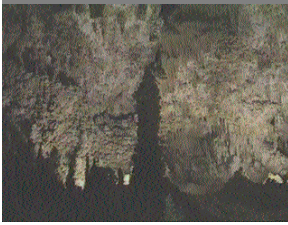
**Geology, Hydrology, Archeology, Biology,
Safety Techniques, Survey, Exploration,
Conservation, History, or other Speleological
Topics**

Please send title of paper to be presented to:

Carol Belski
408 Southern Sky,
Carlsbad New Mexico, 88220
505-885-6168
email belski@caverns.com



TRIP REPORTS: and other lies and stories



"Show We Your Cave" Trip

Most die hard, eat dirt for breakfast cavers would scoff at the very notion of visiting a commercial, show cave. To them, I say, "Think again cave boy," because show caves are some of the most interesting places underground. Many show caves offer such intriguing histories that one can't help but want to see and know more. Take Eugene Ebell for example. Eugene is part of the great history of Cave-Without-A-Name just outside of Boerne. He visited the cave for the first



time in 1939 when a contest to name the cave was won by a boy who stated, "This cave is too pretty to name." Little did Eugene know that he would end up marrying the widow of the man who owned it and own it himself when she passed away.

On September 18, I visited this fantastic cave and was able to see (as many others before have) this humble, older gentleman repeatedly do what he has for so many years. It all started when Eugene arrived at the tired gift shop in his beaten Toyota truck. The first thing he said was, "The rest rooms are inside." He really knows his visitors. A paid \$5 fee later, I was standing behind Eugene anxiously waiting for him to unlock the gate and lead me to another caving experience. As we shuffled down the 1930's staircase which was built in a blasted out hole, Eugene told of the cave's finding. He told of a goat falling 90 feet down a small, narrow pit and of the ranchers wishing they had retrieved the goat sooner so they could have at least had a goat roast. Then, he told of the young boys who crawled through a tiny passage in to a void that scared them but would have delighted them had they been "spelunkers"

Eugene went on to give the names and stories about every formation, pool, and artifact in the cave. He told of a New Yorker who wanted to taste the spring water running through the cave. When he did, he spit it out in disgust because the water had no taste. Eugene consistently and persistently added "We need a good six to eight inches of rain for the cave to really shine," to almost every sentence he spoke. He instructed me on which pictures to take and even offered to take a picture of me standing in front of a great canopy. And yes he even played his famous "rock music." Music he created by tapping on draperies with a stick.

There are many more stories about Cave-Without-A-Name but I'll leave those for your trip. Just follow the faded signs "F.M. 474 and on Kreuzberg Road reading, "The Cave," and you'll find yourself waiting for the man who will guide you through one of the most spectacular caves in Texas. Just don't make fun of his "rock music." Eugene doesn't like that.

Spectacular is not however a word I would use to describe Cascade Caverns also just outside of Boerne. On September 17, I stopped to see this cave. Visitors are led to a room to watch an overused video tape about how caves are created. This would be acceptable were it not for the fact that it was merely a tool for making the cave tour seem longer.

The guide led us to the entrance of the cave and mentioned that "a long time ago" a hermit lived in the cave and that his bones were found and moved to a museum somewhere. That's all I know. Then we walked down the stairs into the cave and to the protected and totally unrecognizable mammoth bone.

Farther along, the tour became more interesting. Due to the aquifer, it is a wet cave and also subject to flooding in some places. Early explorers put a flashlight in a pickle jar and dove to find the other sections of the cave. It seems every soda straw has a drop of water dangling from the end. The ceiling sparkled and that was the most impressive thing about the cave. The 90 foot, inactive waterfall loses its impressiveness when the guide flips a switch and a mass of water comes rushing down in to a murky pool.

Our guide left us and allowed us to exit the cave at our leisure. I looked everything over because I had a feeling I would never be back. I took one last glance at the mammoth bone and cringed at the coin filled, copper colored wishing well near it. I was told not to waste my time with Cascade Caverns but I'm glad I did. I was not disappointed. I just was not amazed. See it if you haven't but told no expectations. Now why didn't I receive this advise for the next cave I was to visit?

On September 22, I went to (I'm afraid to say it for I may lose credibility) Wonder Cave in San Marcos. Stop laughing. From a seismic stand point, it's neat. From a tourist stand point, it bites. The tour is way too short to justify the \$8.75 fee, the colored lights are rude, and the one formation the cave has is allowed to be mauled by everyone who visits. There are many fossils in the cave which too are allowed to be touched and a wishing well stands full of coins. The history of this cave is limited to an illegal poker room in the cave and the fact that the cave was formed by an earthquake along the Balcones Fault line.

Once again, I'm glad I saw it but once is enough. This cave is as commercial as any cave can be with an anti-gravity house, a petting zoo, and a train ride near by ready to take your money. I was left wondering, I guess it really is Wonderland.

You must see Cave-Without-A-Name if you haven't, you can see Cascade Caverns if you want, and you might see Wonder Cave if you're desperate but don't let my opinions sway you. I just happen to be someone who enjoys seeing show caves in all their glory. After all, they are still caves even if they are strung with lighting and draped with staircases. Why deny them for their development? If some caves were not developed, we might never see them and I would hate to think I would never get to see something like Caverns Of Sonora or Carlsbad Caverns. So, tolerate the commercialism and go see a cave.

P.S. Opinions expressed in this report are strictly those of the author and are in no way influenced by the National Caves Association.

Submitted by Rebecca Lee NSS# 42075

PBSS Rock Haulers Fill Two Dump Trucks In Eight Hours



We came, we saw , we hauled 16 tons of rock! Saturday October 12th, 1996 eight members of the Permian Basin Speleological Society descended into the depths of Carlsbad Caverns National Park to further the efforts of what some have referred to as mindless rock removal in a restoration project that started in the mid 80's and continues on year after year.



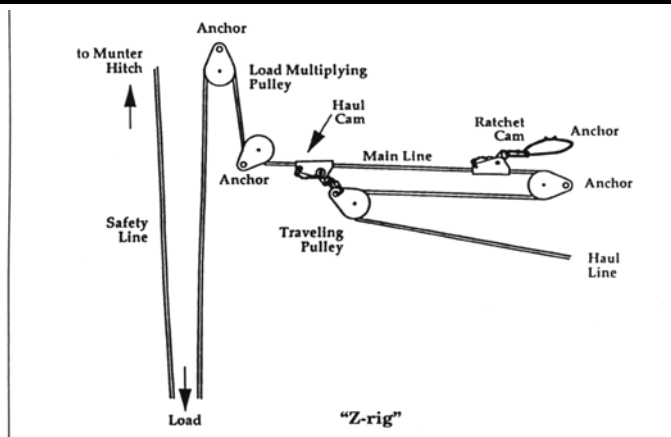
The early 1930's in Carlsbad Caverns was a time that was simple and the conservation ethics were not like they were today , so with that in mind it is easier to understand why the authorities in charge would cover the floor of the big room with debris and rocks from the construction from the elevator shafts.

"I went to Carlsbad Caverns and helped haul rocks!" I explained, and was always met with the same response "Why?" "I guess its just my way of returning a little of the beauty and to help pay for the damage that I have caused in my years of exploring caves...." I think every caver should volunteer at least once every year and help put back a little something into the caving community...

Among those who helped in this weekends efforts was Walter Feaster aka Trip Leader, myself Bill Bentley, Kerry Lowery, Mike Bandy, Ruel Metcalf, Rebecca Lee, Felder Hogan, and Rick Day.

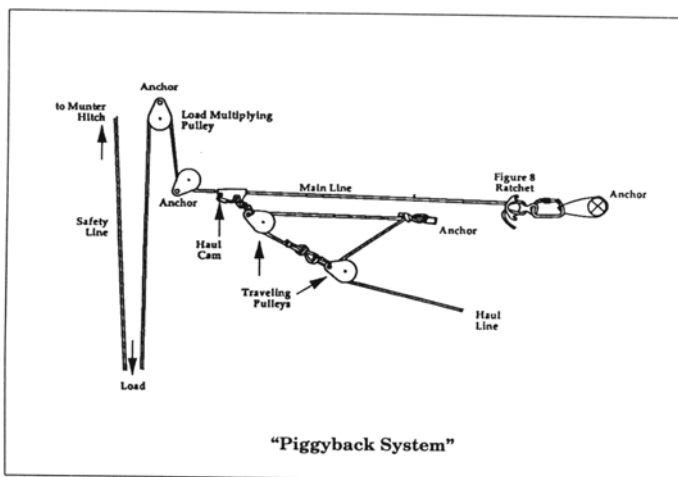
Martha McArther and her intrepid band of cavers were also up at the Caverns this weekend for restoration work more of the detail kind....

Submitted by Bill Bentley NSS # 21977



The Last Meeting!

- ♦ The October meeting of the PBSS was one of the best meetings we have had in a while thanks to Bill Martin and his on hands discussion of the Z-Rig and Piggy Back Rescue Pulley System shown to the left.



Bat Posters For Sale:

Gralin Coffin has some 40" X 30" Posters of Bats for the benifit of the Texas Cave Management Association only \$4.00 each. Gralin can be contacted at 915-682-1904.

Treasurers report: Walter reports that we have \$416.81 in the club treasury and that we are in good shape going forward to the 1997 year...

**Texas and Mexico Cave Rescue
Call Collect 210-686-0234**

This is Kriedler Funeral Home's 24 Hour number
Ask for "Cave Rescue" and "John Kriedler"
In New Mexico Dial 911

