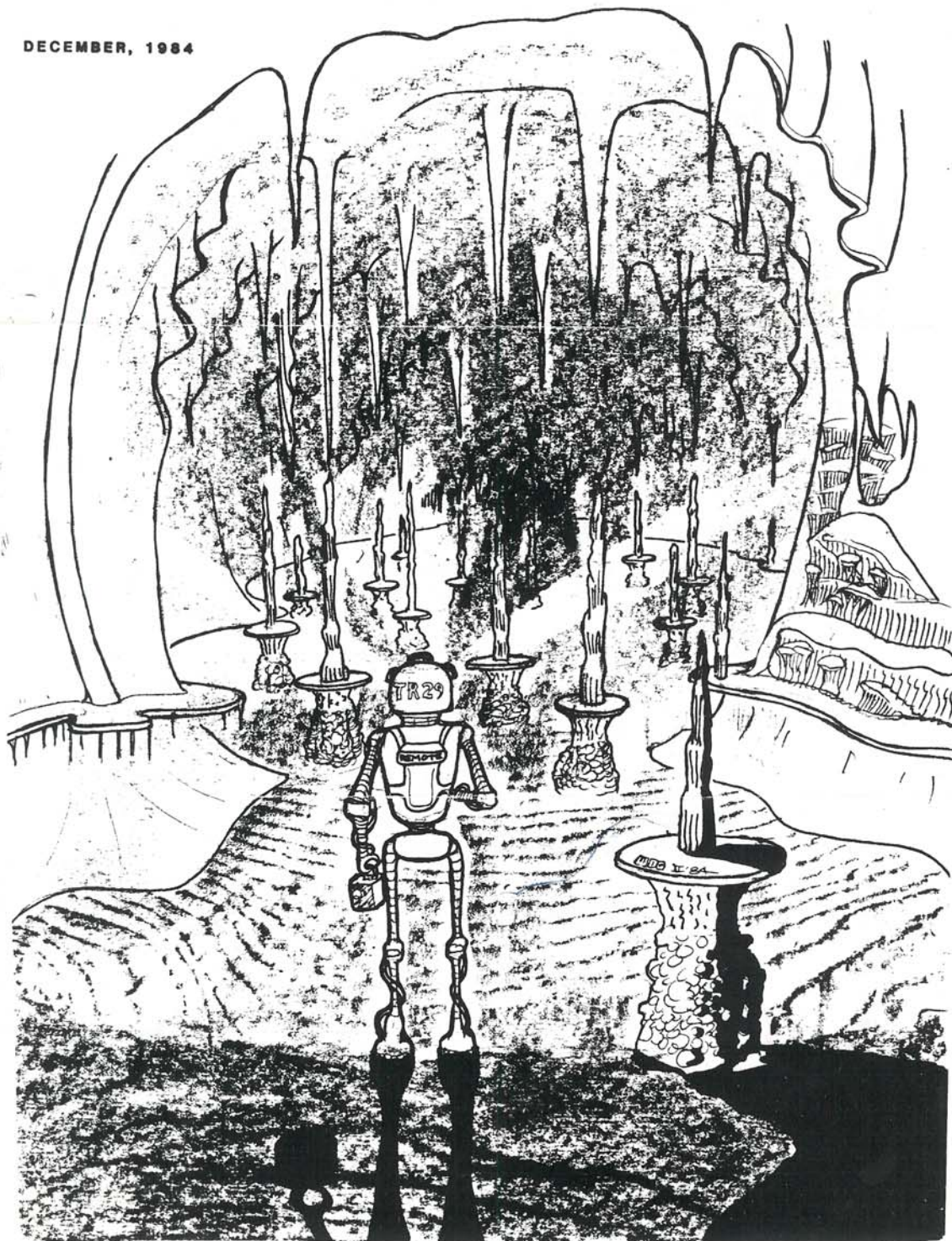


PBSS SPYLUNK

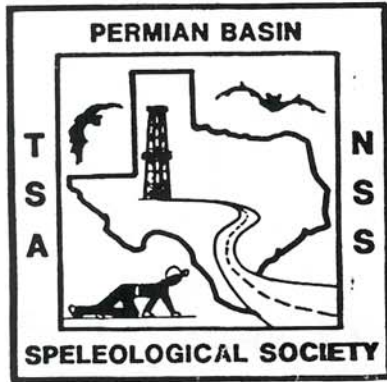
Volume II, Number 2*
(See error message inside back cover)

DECEMBER, 1984



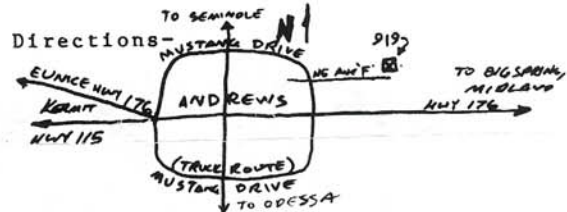
The P.B.S.S. Monthly Spylunk

DECEMBER, 1984



TONY GRIECO, PRESIDENT
4723 W. ILLINOIS
MIDLAND TEXAS 79703
915-697-0323

MEETING: Due to the holiday season, the next PBSS grotto meeting will be a combined NOV-DEC affair. The date is Thursday December 6, 7:30 PM. Location will be Bill Greenlee's house at 919 N.E. Ave F, Andrews, TX.



Call 915-523-9550 for info.

RESCUE AT MADONNA CAVE (As related by Tom Dillon, PVG)

A group of five cavers entered this remote Guadalupe Mountains cave on Sunday, November 4th. They planned to spend the night inside, and had an abundance of provisions. After rigging the 280 foot drop, the first man descended. He then prepared to retrieve the gear as it was lowered.

Somehow a helmet-sized rock dislodged and came crashing down through the same crack in the ceiling that cavers enter through. It then sliced thin air some 150 feet before striking the floor. In an effort to escape certain doom, the man standing at the bottom of the drop leaped away, and fell in a 20 foot pit. The fall broke his arm in two places, as well as some ribs.

Fortunately, one of the group is a nurse, and set the victim's arm in a splint. One stayed at the top of the drop, one at the entrance, and the other returned for help. The truck got stuck near the cave, so the man had to walk several miles over rough terrain to reach the ranger station.

NEVER FEAR, CAPTAIN CARABINER IS HERE!



Ron Kerbo coordinated rescue activity. The rescue team consisted of members of; a cave search-and-rescue organization, the U.S. Forest service, and the Pecos Valley Grotto. Dave Belski rappelled down to the victim, who was being well cared for. Tom Dillon dangled halfway down the drop to act as a voice relay. The cave rescue group rigged a hauling system. Jerry Trout ascended on another rope next to the victim as he was raised.

After being hauled up, the wounded caver had to negotiate a tight crawl to get out. He was then airlifted to Carlsbad. Total time between accident and completion of rescue was sixteen hours.

CAVE TRIPS: The Supreme Spylunk of our grot arranged permits for these wonderful voids in the earth's crust;

DEC 15 & 16 Sentinal, Big Door, Wonderland, Black (Horizontal and vertical)

JAN Langtry Lead

FEB 16 & 17 Three Fingers , Madonna (Vertical)

MAR 16 & 17 Lake , Spider (Horizontal)

APR 20 & 21 The Pinks (Horizontal)

MAY Powell (aka Silver Mine Creek)

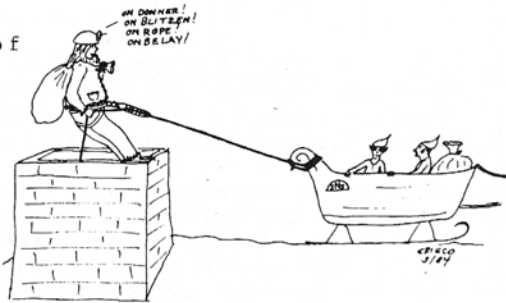
JUN 15 & 16 Hell Below, Black (Horizontal and vertical)

Contact Tony Grieco at 915-697-0323 or Bill Greenlee at 915-523-9550 about participating in any of your monthly grotto trips.

PUBLIC RELATIONS:

Our PBSS exhibit is still on display at the Midland County Library, and will remain there throughout the month of december. Drop by to check it out if you haven't already! Remember- pick up an NSS membership form while you're at it. If you already belong to NSS, recruit one of your non-reg speleopals!

We will move the exhibit to one of the local colleges next month- probably the UTPB in Odessa.



THINGS JUST HAVEN'T BEEN THE SAME SINCE THEY MADE HIM AN HONORARY SPYLUNK

TRIP REPORTS:

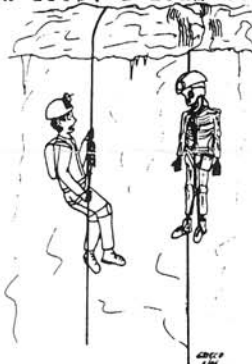
November 3, 1984 H. T. Meyers Cave, Val Verde County, Texas
Participants- Bill Bentley, Art Carr, Joe Collins, Bill Greenlee, Tony Grieco, Terry Hill, Pat Murphy (Report by Tony)

Friday night, the intrepid spylunks met and camped at a picnic area on beautiful Lake Amistad. Since everyone had driven a good distance for this trip, the usual around-the-campfire revelry was relatively subdued.

Saturday morning, after being informed by a NPS ranger (who, fortunately, is also a caver) that we couldn't camp where we had camped, the group set out to find the cave. We thought this would be a relatively easy task because of our detailed directions. Two hours, several missed turns, and about twenty miles of walking later, we actually found the entrance!

The cave trip itself went very smooth. I was impressed by the almost machine-like precision the group demonstrated. The cave consists of five drops varying from 20 to over 100 feet. The cave showed signs that at one time it had been decorated. Most of these had been ruined by flooding, which presumably began after the cave opened to the surface.

At the bottom of the cave was a short pitch down into a fairly expansive room. Bill G., Joe, and Art rigged a sling and climbed down, while Terry waited at the lip (We discovered that Gibbs ascenders work OK on 1" tubular webbing, but that Jumars slip-Ed.). The remainder of the group ascended to the fourth drop, a long free pitch with a notoriously nasty lip.



HEY JOE! YOU WEREN'T SAYING WHEN YOU SAID THIS IS A HARD LIP TO NEGOTIATE!

Splitting the group prevented a bottleneck at this drop. Everyone was out of the cave approximately nine hours after the trip had begun.

Later, everyone but Bill B. and Terry returned to the picnic area (where we got caught by the same ranger Sunday morning—we must have sorely tried this woman's patience) and spent the night. Next morning, everyone split up and either went home or on to new adventures in Mexico. (It is said that some of the intrepid spylunks did some caving in Acuna-Ed.)

November 10, 1984 Sentinal Cave, Eddy County, New Mexico

Participants—Jim Berka, Tom Dillon, Bill Greenlee, Dave Logan, Jim Moore, Kevin Sublett (Report by Bill)

This cave required some technical rock climbing skills in order to negotiate the traverse over McCollum's Pit. Luckily we had some maniacs in our party. Ropes required are : Three 165's (including one dynamic rope)—150's will probably work OK too; one 300'er, for the back section; a 100'er for the entrance drop; and at least three handlines, about 20' each.

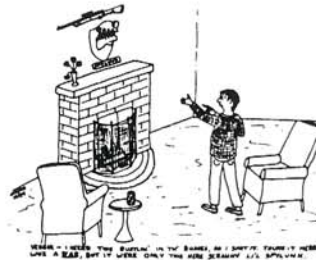
Jim Moore led the climb across the 60'+ McCollum's Pit. Tom belayed Jim with Goldline. The moves required Jim to use a previously set bolt for protection, as well as having to place a chock. For one instant, he had to transfer his weight from one wall to the opposite, with only one hand- and one foothold.

Some visitors rig a Tyrolean traverse across the pit, but we elected to rappel into the hole and ascend out the other side, on the Goldline. Kevin also traversed the pit to clean the pitch.

We spent a total of ten hours exploring all accessible grotts in the cave. Like most other Guad caves, Sentinal is a magnificent showcase of formations. When we emerged, the still night sky was filled with moonlight. The hike back is rigorous, but for us was pleasant.

November 17 & 18, 1984 Three Fingers and Wonderland Eddy County, N.M.
Participants- Tom Dillon, Tony Grieco, Bill Greenlee (Report by Bill)

Since this weekend marked open season for deer hunters in the Guads, Tom wore a fluorescent orange flag and Tony wore an orange poncho. I didn't wear my Bullwinkle hat that day!



Tom led Tony and I since he'd visited the cave once. We took a 150'er for the entrance drop (a vertical maze). Also, we carried a 200'er for the drop into Three Fingers Hall (which we did not find). We photographed many of the fascinating formations in the main gallery. A huge free-standing bell canopy dominates the chamber. We followed some breakdown passages down to some of the sparsely travelled areas of the cave. The hike back to the ridgetop is very steep. However, with a blowing sleet greeting us as we emerged, we did not have to fear heatstroke.

Next day, I led the tour to Wonderland, being the only one of us to have visited. Tony finally made it all the way (this being his fourth attempt). Tom was suitably impressed with "the Keyhole". He says it's the tightest squeeze he's made it through except for when he was born. We bypassed the tight place on the way out.

SAFETY TIP Wear high-visibility clothing when you must cave near hunters.

WANT ADS:

For Sale- Set of vertical equipment, including rope. For details call Dan Westlund at 915-362-3639 or write to 3120 N. Center Odessa, TX 79762

Wanted- Material for publication in the Spylunk. Send any safety tips, stories, comments, want ads, complaints, songs, poems, drawings, cartoons, research documents, movies, lies, paintings, photographs, or microwaves pertaining to caves, caving, cavers, speleology, sewer crawling, cliff jumping, rock eating, or mud skiing to the return address on this issue.

Wanted- Virgins for sacrifice to Oztotl. No experience necessary.

* Message to all collectors of speleopublications: Please note an ~~erratum~~ ^{ERROR} in last issue's (NOV 84) cover- now reads "Volume II, Number 2" should read "Volume II, Number 1"

It is quite likely that the PBSS SPYLUNK will someday be valuable historical document. Perhaps even more so than Mr. T's autobiography.