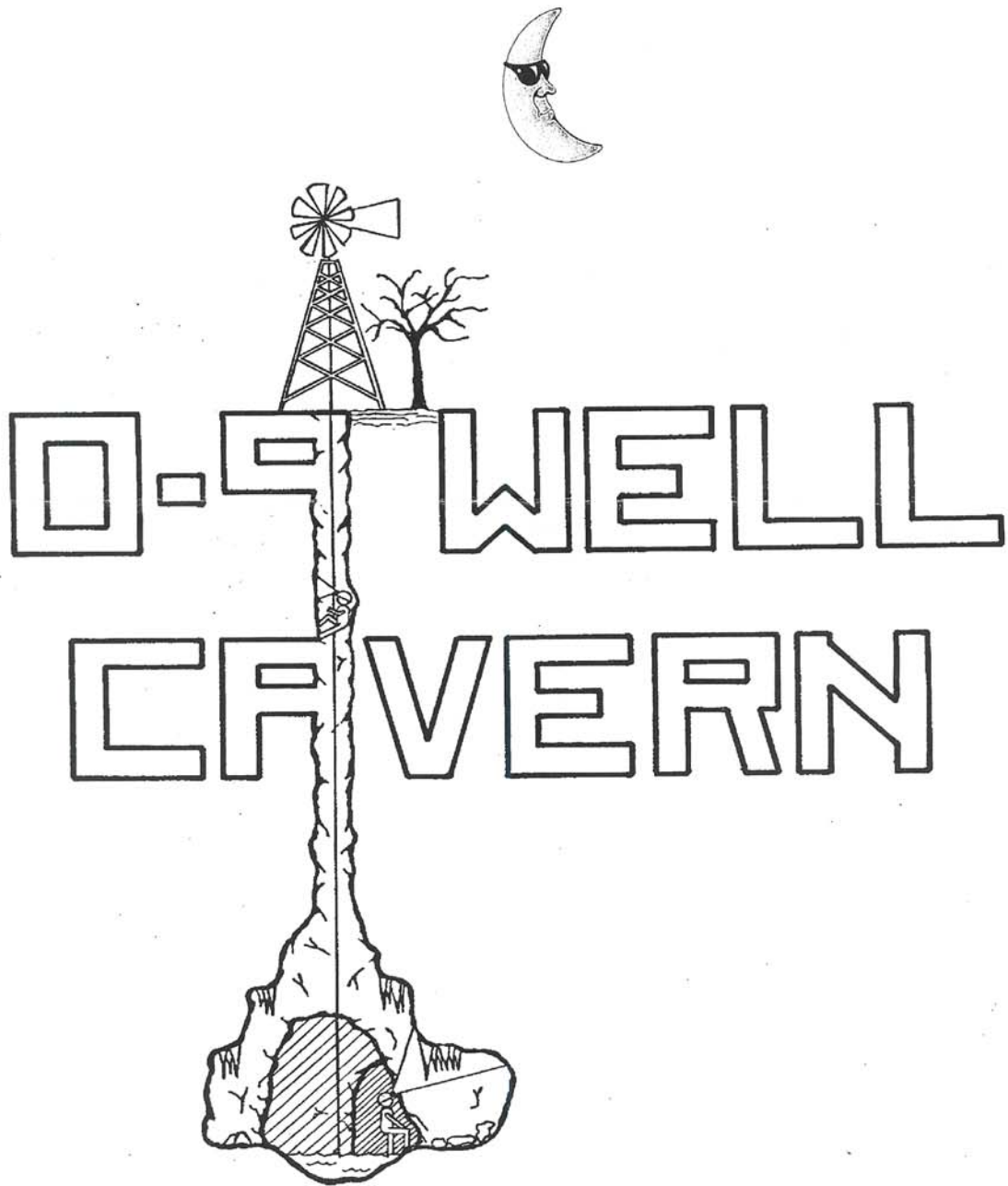
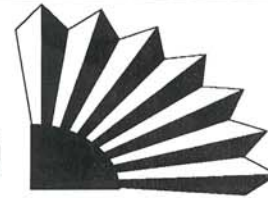


# THE HOLE NEWS

September

1996





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Chartered 1984 as the 300th Grotto of the National Speleological Society

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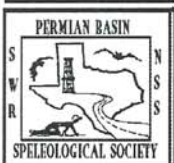
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**Next Meeting: PBSS**

The next official meeting of the Permian Basin Speleological Society will be held on Tuesday, September 10, 1996 at 7:00 PM in the back meeting room of Murry's Delicatessen. Murry's is located at 3211 west Wadley, Midland, Texas.

Probable topic of discussion is our future restoration trips.

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



Visite our Web Site

At

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

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

October 5-6 GYPKAP: Contact Steve Peerman, @ 505-523-2167

\*\*\* October 12 PBSS Restoration at Carlsbad Caverns: Contact Walter Feaster @ 915-559-3297 or 915-694-1824.\*\*\*\*\*

October 18-20 Texas Caver's Reunion (TCR): It will be held at the Flat Creek Ranch near The Pedernales Falls State Park.  
More details later.

November 2-3 Caverns of Sonora Restoration Project: Contact George Veni, 11304 Candle Park, San Antonio, TX 78249-4421.  
Phone: 210-558-4403. E-Mail: kveni@tenet.edu. See more details in this news letter.

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

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...

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 Canvon 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!.....**

### Rock & Roll at CACA

Well it is that time again. Time to haul rocks (rock & roll) at Carlsbad Caverns. The date for our expedition is October 12. I know we discussed November, but it seems like everyone and there brother is doing restoration work in November. This is the best time I could come up with.

I have several people wanting to go already. If you are interested, call me, or be at the next meeting. I will have more details then.

Walter Feaster NSS #31624

### About The Cover

As you can figure out this is the 0-9 Well logo. This work of art was designed by Glen Schneider of Austin, Texas. I added the crescent moon.

Speaking of 0-9 Well, the cave will be closed to vission this winter, starting Labor Day weekend.

Walter Feaster NSS#31624

### PBSS Welcomes New Member

PBSS welcomes Michael W. Bandy to our fine organization. Michael hails from Missouri, where you can drive 3 to 5 miles in any direction and find a cave. Of course the caves in Missouri are wet, muddy and cold, (real caves).

Any way welcome to West Texas. We do have a few caves in the area, but you are going to have to drive a little farther. We are looking forward to caving with you.

From the Members of the PBSS

### 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**

5th ANNUAL

**CAVERNS OF SONORA RESTORATION PROJECT**

November 2-3, 1996

by George Veni

Restoration work at Caverns of Sonora was postponed last year so the owners could host the National Caves Association convention. I've since had many calls from cavers saying they were suffering withdrawal symptoms and that they needed their "Sonora fix." You can quit calling to complain and start calling to reserve your space for the next project, which will be held during the first weekend of November.

This year's project will involve hauling rock and rubble out of the cave which was generated during its development by cutting paths for trails. This material was dumped to fill side passages or to create unsightly piles. Like many show caves, Sonora was developed on a shoe-string budget and took some shortcuts to become operational. But unlike many caves, the owners want to undo the damage and are asking for our help. This year we will work in the Sponge Rooms, just past the area where we held our first restoration project; see the foldout map in "The Caves and Karst of Texas" for their location. This is also just past the Devil's Pit where we last hauled rock (we'll get back to finish the pit another year). Much of the rubble currently fills 2-m-deep pits. If we're lucky, we may open up some long-forgotten or unchecked passages! But remember, the work will be heavy and tiring. If your physical or medical condition is not up to it, please wait until a less strenuous project is planned before volunteering to help.

In return for a hard day's work on Saturday, Nov. 2nd, the owners will provide lunch, and a catered dinner with dessert and all the fixins' that has kept many cavers coming back each year. Also that evening, from 7 p.m. until midnight, guides will take cavers along the trail to photograph the cave's splendors to their heart's content. The tour lights will be left off to avoid interference with the photography. For those not wanting to do the night tour, bring slides for showing in the Visitor Center. The next day I'll lead a 3-4 hour lights-on tour for cavers to get a few more photos and to discuss the cave's history, exploration, and geology, or just to tell a bunch of tall tales. Regular tours will also be available at no cost. Sorry, but there will be absolutely no off-trail access --the cave is much too delicate.

If you would like to come help out at Sonora please contact me by Oct. 28th. The owners need to know how many people to expect in order to prepare meals (let me know if you're a vegetarian), and to prepare equipment and areas for work crews. Bring gloves, small army-type folding shovels, plastic 5-gallon buckets, and upright dollies if you have them. Helmets and carbide lamps are not allowed in the cave, and lights will generally not be needed, although a pocket flashlight or elastic-band headlight may occasionally be useful. There is a limit of 70 people for this trip, and while it may seem like a lot, it will likely fill soon. Reservations will be first-come, first-serve. I will develop a waiting list in case of cancellations. And let me know ASAP if you have to cancel!!! The last project was nearly ruined by no-shows and by cancellations that unnecessarily waited until the last minute to tell me.

To get to Caverns of Sonora, take I-10 8 miles west of the town of Sonora and follow the signs for 7 more miles. Below is a schedule of events. To reserve your space or for more information, call, write, or e-mail me: George Veni, 11304 Candle Park, San Antonio, TX 78249-4421, 210-558-4403, kveni@tenet.edu.

Schedule:

- Friday nite to Sat. morn: Arrive and register for the project in the campground (Friday night) or the visitor center (Saturday morning).
- Sat., 8:30 a.m. to noon: Work in cave (self-serve refreshments will be provided in the cave at the work sites).
- Noon to 1 p.m.: Break for lunch.
- 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.: Work in cave.
- 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.: Clean-up (hot showers available).
- 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.: Dinner.
- 7 p.m. to midnight: Lights-out photo trip in cave. For anyone wanting to stay on the surface, a slide projector and screen will be set up in the Visitor Center -- Bring your slides!
- Sun., 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.: Free access to regular cave tours.
- Sun., 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.: Lights-on caver tour.

Feel free to reproduce this announcement in its entirety or in part in grotto newsletters or by other means to share it with your caving friends.

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## TRIP REPORTS: and other lies and stories

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### Here is a trip report from another ill fated journey underground!

I was supposed to write a trip report about a trip into Lecheguilla Cave last August 95, and I never did. Now here it is a almost year later and I still have not written anything. I can't remember all the details so I will just give you the highlights of what I do remember. It was a doomed trip and was plagued from the very beginning. We should have been leery when we saw a common Southwestern Diamond Back Rattle Snake at the window to the CRF cabins. There was also an abundance of Scorpions that night too. An omen? Perhaps. Any way we started in to the cave on Saturday morning and we selected Gralin Coffin to do the entrance drop and go in first. No I don't think I remember drawing straws, or picking numbers out of a hat, but he just decided to go down the drop first, after all he had never been there before, so who would be more qualified. He rigged in and in one quick whoosh his webbing strap came loose on his pack and down it went all 70 to 90 feet and with a very loud blam it hit on the ground, smashing one of his water bottles and I think it was a bag of chicken and rice MRE packet. At least that is the smell I remember.

Once inside it was pretty uneventful as far as a trip goes. We did our assigned task of replacing the flagging. It was like a job and it did make the time fly, 12 to 14 hours underground I think I remember that. On the way out I was elected to go up Boulder falls rope drop first. I think it was because I was ready with my gear before any one else. I started up and not since 1981 had I experienced the spin on a rope like when I was climbing a length of gold line, but this was suppose to be a nylon kernmantle rope and supposedly no spin. It stopped spinning just at a point of me losing my groceries, only to start a spin in the opposite direction. I stared at the rope and continued to climb. It finally settled down. I then had noticed that it was getting darker, and I held my hand up in front of my wheat lamp light and just a dim glow. Darn my luck. I turned it off and waited a few minutes. Taking advantage of the stop to rest. I turned it on and climbed while the false charge lasted about a minute and then climbed in the dark. I knew not to panic as I was only 20 feet from the edge of the ceiling and I soon hit my head on it and groped my way up and over the ledge. I was fighting the rope and ledge and then I turned my light on again to see enough to get to the top, as I sat down to get off rope beside the tie off point, my battery slung around and hit the floor and instantly came on full brightness. Darn, a bad cell, well there's a \$100.00 for a new battery. It would go off and on several more times only to finally give up completely at the entrance tunnel.

We all made it out and waited at the entrance for every last one of the group. Now I don't have a hair on my head if I don't tell "Paul Harvey's The Rest Of The Story". As I recollect it was still daylight when we made it out and the semi cool breeze of the New Mexico desert in August was just real nice along with the golden orange glow against the dark blue clouds of the setting sun. They thought no one was aware of what was to happen but a caver in our group accidentally took a swig of his "P" bottle and realizing his mistake he spat it out in a spray of "P" all over someone else. They had been friends for a long time and this tested the limits of it.

Later back at the cabin that night we were all resting and talking about the days trip when the caver in question took a dip of snuff in his lip. Someone, I don't remember who, mentioned that it looked like guano. I quickly commented, "Look if the man wants to eat guano that's his business, after all he drinks "P"!"

There was not a dry eye in the place from the laughter which ensued. I am sorry I can't give dates, times and specifics, or even who was all along on the trip. I only mentioned the highlights of these events which stick in my mind and will someday become entwined with all of those other caving trips which are slowly becoming one big long trip and just a memory.

Have fun caving, I always do. Bill Bentley July 1996