

CAVING DIARY AND GENERAL NOTES.

1960 TO 1962.

Volume 1. 20th March 1960 - Dec 31st 1962.

Volume 2. 1st April 1963 - December 1963.

Volume 3. 1st Jan 1964 - December 1965

Volume 4. 1st Jan 1966 - December 1967

Volume 5. 1st Jan 1968 - February 1971

Volume 6. February 1971 - May 1973

Volume 7. June 1973 - December 1975

Volume 8. January 1976 - December 1977

Volume 9. January 1978 - October 1979

Volume 10. November 1979 - October 1980

Volume 11. November 1980 - Sept 1982

Volume 12. October 1982 - June 1985

Volume 13. July 1985 -

20th March 1960.

The Great Ochre Mine.

Clashen Combe. nr. Bristol.

N.G.R. 709548.

Natural Rift with Triassic infill.

Length. 528 ft.

Mined for Red Ochre.

Depth. 120 ft.

Tackle Required. 60 ft ladder, 40 ft belay & 100 ft lifeline for entrance pit.

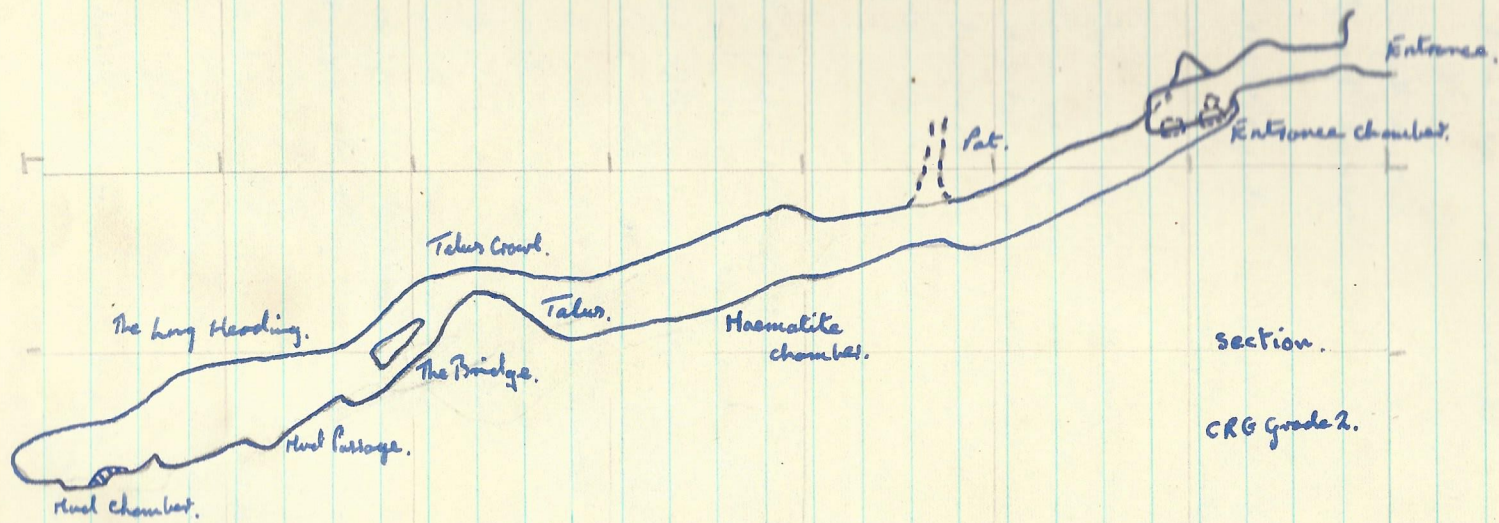
The Great Ochre Mine or Cave is situated on Long Ashton Golf Course at Failand, also known as Clashen Combe.

The mine has two open entrances, one being a 60 ft shaft and the other a collapsed adit in a mined rift. A third entrance at the edge of the wood which borders the road was filled in pre 1952.

Description.

The rift entrance is 18 ft wide and 6 to 8 ft high and gives access to a low light chamber with three light courts all leading into the first chamber. This chamber is 200 ft long, 14-16 ft wide and 6-20 ft high, the floor formed of loose boulders and red mud and much litter down down the shaft. This shaft has a talus pile at its bottom, a dead badger was rotting well. From here the way on is up the talus cone which is in fact the debris down in to block up the adit entrance. This talus sometimes blocks the west part of the mine and on many occasions it has been dug for entry into the honey heading. This is 140 ft long and is a series of chambers separated only by the narrowing of passage width. It seems that the miners built a bridge at the beginning of this series so that they could work at two levels. There are many pick marks in a high level pocket. The final part of the mine narrows down until the rift becomes too tight to follow. This last part seems to be completely wasted.

The mine was a good bat haunt as is proved by the ringing records of P.E. Bird and A. Oldham.



Geology.

The mine appears to occupy a position in the Gabbro dyke, being a natural rift, once full of Triassic material, most of which has been extracted and the mine disused for many years. The main deposit is red ochre of a very high quality.

The floor of the mine is composed of boulders and red ochreous mud but the walls and roof are clean and many minerals may be found in them.

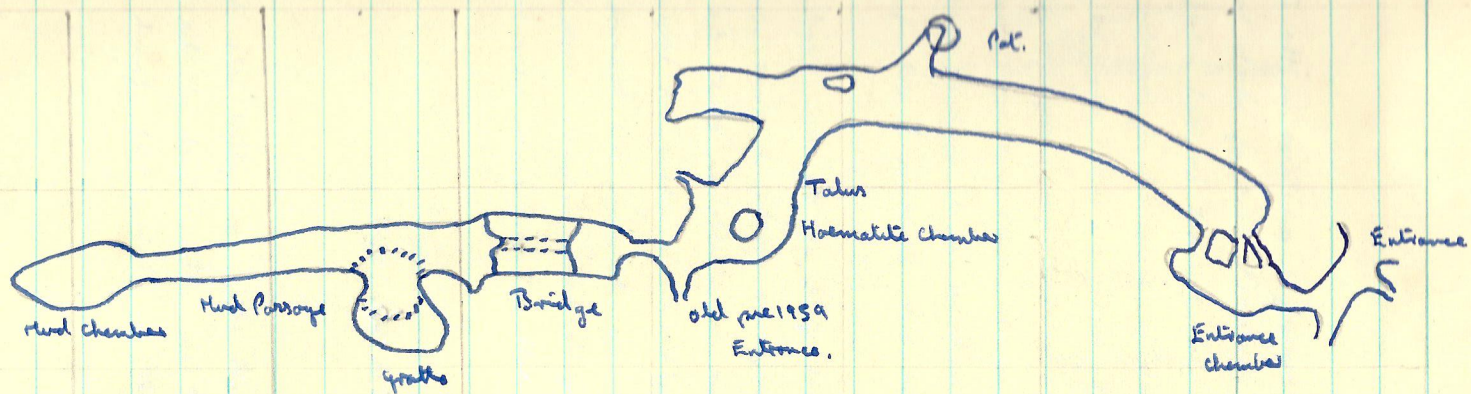
In the first large chamber, fine crystals of calcite both daylight and ordinary spot may be found in the walls and loose boulders. On the R-H wall near the bottom of the pit the rock contains much impure haematite with many quartz crystals. The haematite is mostly massive but there is a bed of the nodular type in the roof above the talus cone.

The roof of the first part of the Long Heading is dome shaped and is covered with masses of quartz crystals mostly of poor quality, the best probably being removed by the miners. Some are remarkable in that they contain inclusions of haematite being smoky or grey/black in colour but keeping their cleanness. Some of the more pure crystals which have no staining are known locally as 'Prismatic Diamonds'.

The end of the Long Heading contains small stalactites and curtains and more often ribbons which are still active, quite drip but not enough to form more than several large pools.

NB. See 'British Caver'. Vol 36. 1962.

After an accident when a golfer fell down the shaft when looking for a ball the shaft was filled in. The infill of the shaft did not block the mine passages. A later visit in late 1961 found the mine to be completely filled in.



Plan.

URG grade 2.

27th March 1960.

Mine near The Great Ocho Mine.

N.B.R. 709548.

Triassic filled Rift.

Length. 90 ft.

Depth. 40 ft.

Situated in the same rift as the Great Ocho Mine and is 15 yds from it. It has a low entrance due to collapse features and fallen boulders have formed a scree and boulder slope at an angle of 45° .

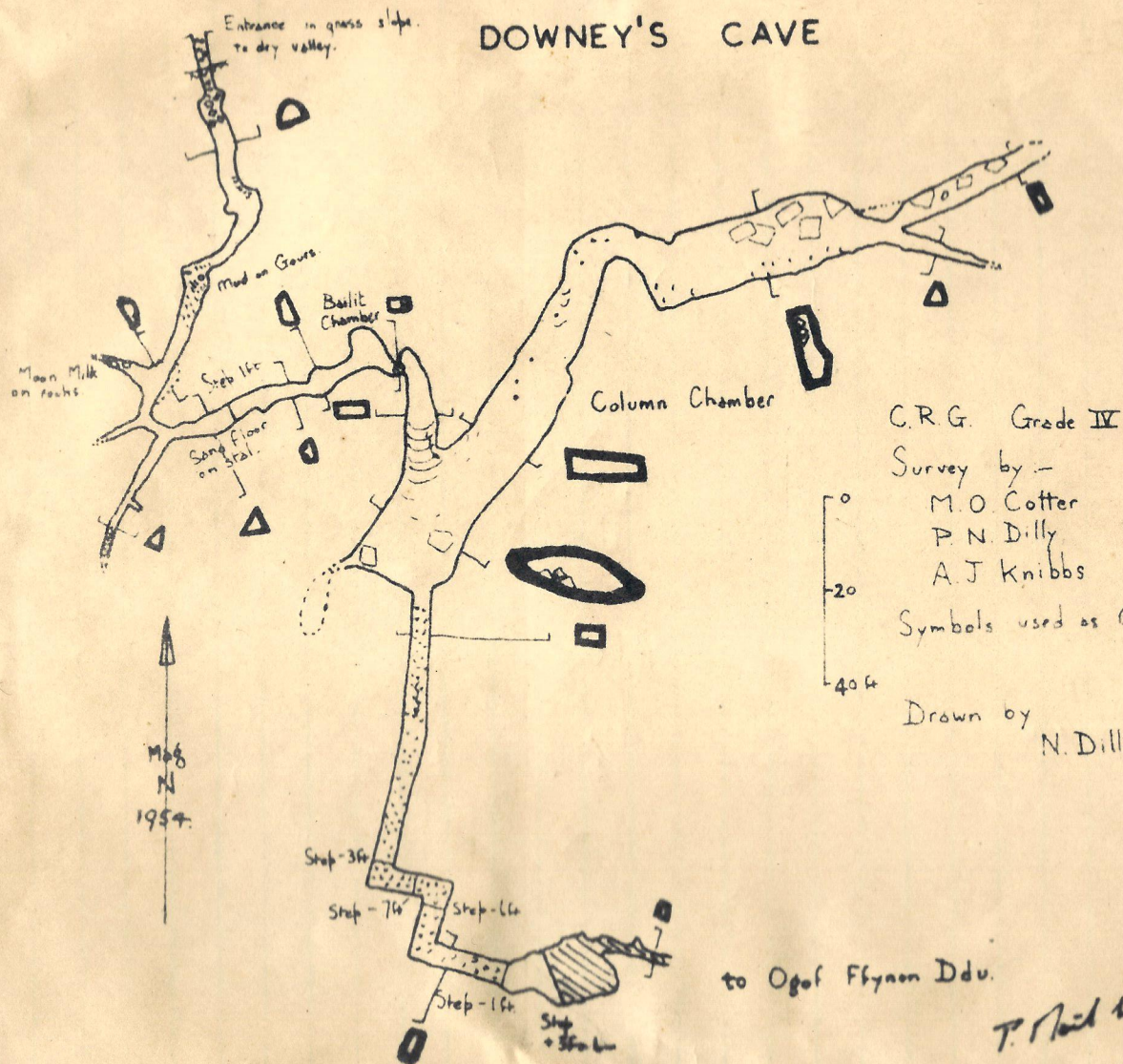
The width of the passage varies from 5-20 ft and the height has approx the same variation.

There are no formations neither are there any examples of exposed minerals in this mine.

Bats have been found in this mine over several years although most of the mine is in the Twilight Zone and the bats tend to accumulate under fallen boulders.

N.B. The mine was filled up at the same time as the Great Ocho Mine in late 1961.

DOWNEY'S CAVE



C.R.G. Grade IV

Survey by -

M.O. Cotter

P.N. Dilly

A.J. Knibbs

Symbols used as CRG list

Drawn by N. Dilly

Dec '58

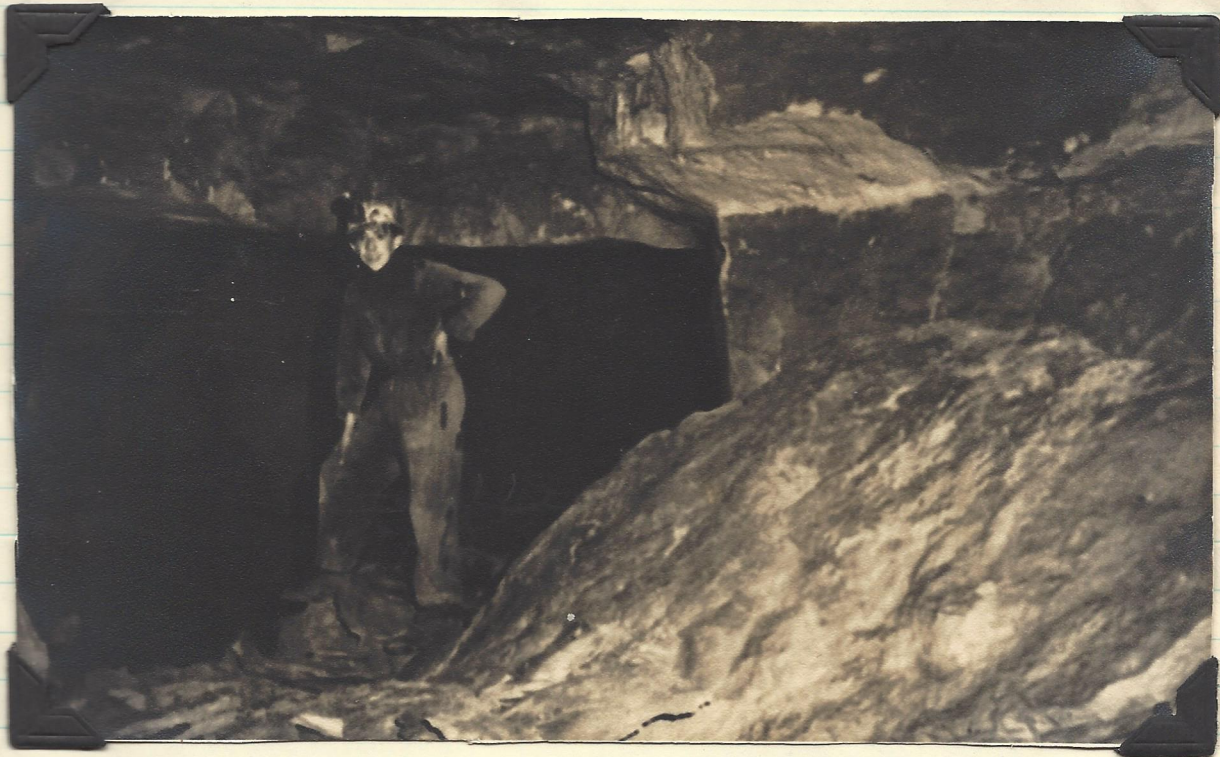
to Ogal Fhynon Ddu.

T. Neil Willy

2nd / 3rd April . 1960 .

Box Mines . Wiltshire .

Mike Kneen , Peter Chubb , Self .



Peter Chubb in the Main Passage . Box . B .

1st exploration trip to Box . Found first links .

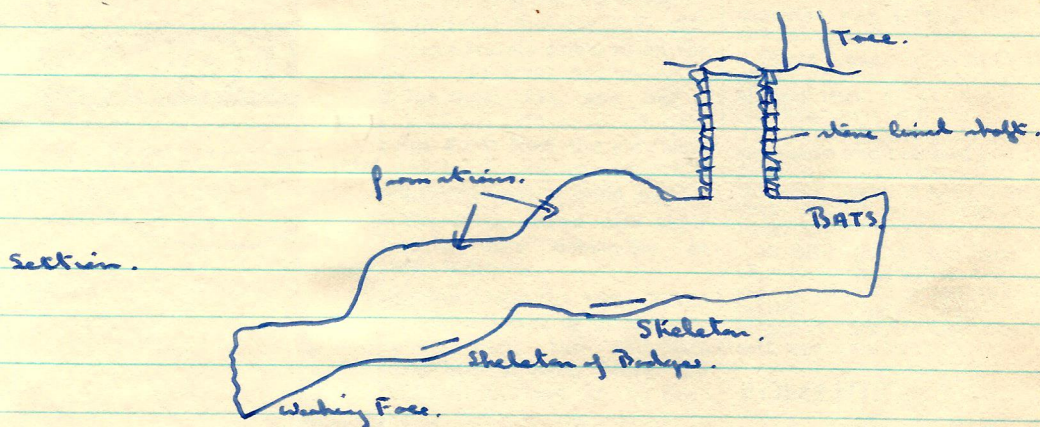
N/Gate to Double Doors . N/Gate to R/Gate . Found fossil alley and no rocks are fossiliferous . Decided to come back again in May and make a survey .

24th April. 1960.

Mine near Sandford Lang.

Shaft found by Peter Chalkas admitted us into a small working approx 60 ft long and 30 ft deep. Large colony of bats at foot of shaft. Fine formations in the roof and two skeletons. 1 badger & 1 unidentified.

Grade 1 runway below.



See Brit Cons Vol.

Also MNR Survey by P.A.E. Starett.

Cave find brings excited crowds, so...

SITE OF DISCOVERY ON MENDIPS IS KEPT A SECRET

EXPERTS digging in a cave "somewhere in the Mendips" may be on the threshold of important archaeological discoveries, writes a correspondent.

The cave was found by a group of amateur enthusiasts who dug up human bones—and gold. Realising the importance of their find, they called in experts who have since been painstakingly at work on the site.

But until their work is approaching conclusion, the exact site of the cave must remain a secret. For many people like caves, and there is danger in the fact.

Only a few years ago, press reports of the discovery of a human skeleton brought so many sightseers to a Somerset farm that the gates had to be padlocked and digging suspended until the excitement had died down.

PROSPECTORS!

Public interest in archaeology is said to be fired chiefly by skeletons, mosaic pavements and Roman coin hoards, in that order; but it would be truer to put caves at the top of the list.

And when, as in the latest case, the newly-discovered cave contained both skeletons and gold, it is obvious that premature publicity would result in something like an archaeological gold-rush by sightseers and souvenir-hunters.

In wooded country, strong barbed-wire fencing would be needed to keep out pick-and-shovel prospectors—and let one add that it is not only small boys who indulge in secret and unauthorised digging!

GRAVE-ROBBERS

To prevent a stampede, with its consequent damage to property, must be the first reaction of any farmer or landowner on whose ground such a discovery is made. I can, therefore, do no more than say, without disclosing its location, that I saw this tiny cave a few months back and was shown fragments of skulls and limb-bones from several skeletons and that, not long afterwards, a gold armlet was found.

So completely disturbed and broken were these human remains (one lower jaw was in three pieces) that it would be unfair to

throw all the blame on badgers or other burrowing animals. But the armlet of gold, which is certainly not less and perhaps not much more than 2,000 years old, does suggest a reason.

It may be that this small burial chamber had been discovered before, perhaps hundreds of years ago, and had been looted by grave-robbers. It remains to be seen whether they overlooked any other armlets or grave-goods.

Archæology is not primarily a hunt for buried treasure and it is unfortunate that sites of this kind are often discovered, sometimes after a great deal of hard work and patient searching, by men who lack the skill to excavate them.

UNFAIR

It frequently happens, and not only in this country, that a sense of duty results in the discoverers handing over their site to a trained archaeologist. In the worst cases, they find that an expert and his students take over, and that they themselves are not allowed to take any part in the work. The most they can expect is a brief mention in the printed report on the excavations.

This kind of treatment is not only unfair, it is stupid, because amateurs smarting under a sense of injustice are likely to keep future discoveries to themselves and perhaps, through lack of skill, destroy evidence that should be examined by experts.

None the less, it is the clear duty of amateurs to report important discoveries to the proper quarters. The next step should be the formation of a committee of experts and the appointment of a Director of Excavation. The latter should be someone whose skill and knowledge command respect, and who can be trusted not to "hog the limelight."

To fulfil these conditions in Somerset—a county in which no professional archaeologists are employed—is likely to be difficult. It should not be impossible, as long as there are skilled amateurs ready to work for the good of the cause.

WOOKEY HOLE WARNING

BEP

1956

Caveman bracelet starts a row

Sunday Express Reporter

THE finding of a gold bracelet believed to be at least 3,000 years old in a newly discovered cave in Somerset has sparked off a row.

ON ONE SIDE is Mr. Evan Harris, an ex-coal miner, of Ash-lane, Wells, who found the bracelet after his 12-year-old son Gwilym had discovered the cave.

ON THE OTHER is Wing-Commander G. W. Hodgkinson, owner of famous Wookey Hole Caves and of the land on which the new cave was found.

Said Mr. Harris: "My only reward was to be kicked out and stopped from caving there any more."

Hush-hush

"I understood that the bracelet would be exhibited in the Wookey Hole Cave Museum and that my son would be given credit for finding the cave."

"Instead, everything is hush-hush, and my son has been robbed of the credit he deserves."

Said Mrs. Hodgkinson, wife of the wing-commander: "The police and coroner have been informed, and the legal position is that the bracelet is our property."

"Harris dug at first without permission. Later we gave local archaeologists permission to dig but then we were told we should not allow this because the find was so valuable."

"Seven very old skulls have been discovered in the cave and the experts say the moving of a bone even an eighth of an inch can upset their deductions."

The reason

"Everything has to be handled so carefully. That is why we stopped the amateurs."

"Now a Bristol archaeologist and two professors are in charge of excavations."

"The bracelet is tremendously important. We have had a copy of it made for the museum but the bracelet itself is in the safe."

"Our reason for keeping the discovery quiet was because we cannot patrol 800 acres of woodland and caves and we might have people all over the place doing irreparable damage."

The wing-commander has warned that he will prosecute anyone digging on his land without permission.

"We must leave everything to the experts," said Mrs. Hodgkinson.

Gold bracelet not treasure trove:

who gets it now?

TWO men walked from a Wells court yesterday with different ideas on the future of a gold bracelet that for 3,000 years has lain hidden in loam soil at Wookey Hole.

Wing-Comdr. Gerard William Hodgkinson, manager of Wookey Hole Caves, Ltd., owns the site where the bracelet was found and now wants it as the prize exhibit in his museum of archaeological finds.

Mr. Evan Harris, a Welsh coal-miner, who unearthed the bracelet, wants it to go the British Museum and, if possible, to be exhibited in Wells's own museum.

They had both heard Mr. H. A. Horner (North Somerset Coroner) say that the find was **NOT** treasure trove, and therefore its future rested between the finder and the man on whose land the bracelet was found.

The subject of the inquest was handed for inspection to the Coroner and the jury of eight. They saw a gleaming untarnished pure gold bracelet, worth perhaps £12 10s. as bullion, but as for its archaeological value . . . several witnesses described it as "priceless."

FROM BRONZE AGE

It had, said Mr. Edmund John Mason, an archaeology expert, probably been dropped by a Bronze Age woman. Such bracelets, he said, were normally found in pairs if they had been deliberately buried. Mr. Mason, who lives at 11, Kendon Drive, Westbury-on-Trym, told the Coroner that, though he had taken over the excavations after Mr. Harris's discovery, he had found nothing else.

It took only a trowel used in

shallow soil to unearth the treasure, said Mr. Harris, describing how he found the bracelet in December 1955. He said he was working as a "keen amateur" on excavations at Wookey Hole with the permission of Wing-Comdr. Hodgkinson when he made the find.

Instructing the jury, Mr. Horner told them that to qualify as treasure trove, an article must have been deliberately buried by the owner. Something that had been dropped accidentally, or deliberately thrown away, was not treasure trove.

A REPLICA MADE

As the man actually in possession of the find, the Wing-Comdr. told the Evening Post he was pleased with the court's decision and said he had already had a replica made. The replica would go on show. The article itself would be locked in his safe.

But Mr. Harris, through his solicitor, Mr. A. St. G. Bulleid, said that when he handed over the bracelet to the Wing-Comdr. he was under the impression it would go to a public museum.

Wing-Comdr. Hodgkinson replied: "Not at all. The understanding was that it would go to my own private museum."

The last word went to Mr. Bulleid, who said: "We still hope the Wing-Comdr. will change his mind. I'm going to write to him suggesting that the fairest course would be to donate it to a public museum."

ANOTHER SEARCH

The cave, which is known by the archaeologists as a rock shelter, is not part of the Wookey Hole system, but is on land owned by the owner of Wookey Hole caves, Wing-Comdr. G. W. Hodgkinson, who now has the bracelet.

Mr. Mason will be back at Wookey next Saturday, when members of the Cave Diving Group are to swim into some of the caverns on the underground course of the River Axe. Previous surveys by divers at Wookey have brought to light 15 human skeletons from the Romano-British era, and 17th century bottles of Bristol glass.

GOLD BRACELET MAY BE 3,000 YEARS OLD

THE gold bracelet—believed to be 3,000 years old—which was discovered recently "somewhere in the Mendips," was found, it was revealed today, in a newly-excavated rock shelter at Wookey Hole Caves.

Mrs. G. W. Hodgkinson, wife of Wing-Comdr. Hodgkinson, owner of the caves, told the Evening Post today it had been hoped to keep the discovery quiet until experts learned more about the finds, but the news leaked out through local people who were interested as amateurs in archaeology.

"The bracelet is tremendously important, and we have had a copy of it made for Wookey Hole Caves Museum. The bracelet itself is in the safe at my husband's bank."

VERY OLD SCULLS

"Fragments of seven very old skulls have also been discovered in the shelter, and the experts say that if amateur diggers moved a bone even an eighth of an inch, it might well upset their deductions."

"That is why we cannot allow local amateurs, enthusiastic as they are, to go on digging."

Wing-Comdr. Hodgkinson has put up notices saying anyone digging on his land without permission will be prosecuted.

The bracelet was found by Gwilym Harris (12), son of Mr. Evan Harris, of Ash Lane, Wells, and a member of Wookey Spelaeological Society. He will be credited with the discovery when the report on the find is prepared by Mr. Edmund Mason, of 11, Kendon Drive, Westbury-on-Trym.

Mr. Mason, an estates surveyor with the Ministry of Works, Bristol, whose hobby is archaeology and who gives evening lectures on archaeology to the Workers' Educational Association, is preparing to dig again in three weeks' time.

WOOKEY HOLE HUNT

HAS LITTLE SUCCESS

SEARCH was resumed over the week-end in the cave at Wookey Hole in which a valuable Bronze Age gold bracelet was recently discovered.

Mr. Edmund Mason, a Ministry of Works surveyor in Bristol, and a Workers' Educational Association lecturer in archaeology, led the party of eight, which dug to a depth of 6ft. in the entrance to the cave.

"We have found nothing of importance so far," said Mr. Mason, "but the cave goes back 15ft. and there are deposits there which must be examined." The bracelet was discovered in the cave by a 12-year-old boy, and bones, evidence of human occupation, have also been found there.

The bracelet, which is estimated to be 3,000 or more years old, is made of Irish gold. Ornaments made of the same gold have been found as far away as the Mediterranean.

1st May 1960.

herton Cave.

First visit to Western Mendips. Not very impressed as herton seemed dead but noted with great interest the anomalous viz roof pockets.

Reservoir Hole.

Found a large number of bones in this cave, some partly covered with stal. Taken to City Museum and were identified by P.F. Bird.

Now in collection of A. Chubb.

White Spot Cave.

Very interested in amount of Mouse Miths on the walls of cave. Photos taken show much scalloping in the roof.

Dundry Mines.

ringed for P.F. Bird.

GUARD SALOON
WN SALOON
LINE SALOON
CN
HITLEY SALOON
ON
SALOON
OT SALOON
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U. TRUCK
Y VAN
P.U. TRUCK
N
N
CLE
RED HUNTER

Western Mercury + Somerset Herald
Dec 4 1959

NEW CAVE FOUND AT RICKFORD

100-ft. Interior Said To Include Formations As
Beautiful As Any In The Mendips



Mr. Colin Cole (top), of Wrington, Mr. Ivor Towler (Winscombe), and Mr. John Bosley (Sandford) who discovered the cave. Mr. Bosley is entering the shaft.

BUILDERS levelling ground at a farm at Rickford, near Bur-
rington, came across what they at first thought to be a large
black rock. However, further investigation by the building con-
tractor, Mr. J. Ashley, revealed that the dark "object" was, in
fact, the mouth of a cave. Already it is being said that the for-
mations to be found inside the cave are as beautiful as any in
the Mendips.

One of the builder's employees, Mr. John D. Bosley, who has made the descent, told the "Mercury": "It is a wonderful sight—better than anything in Cheddar caves."

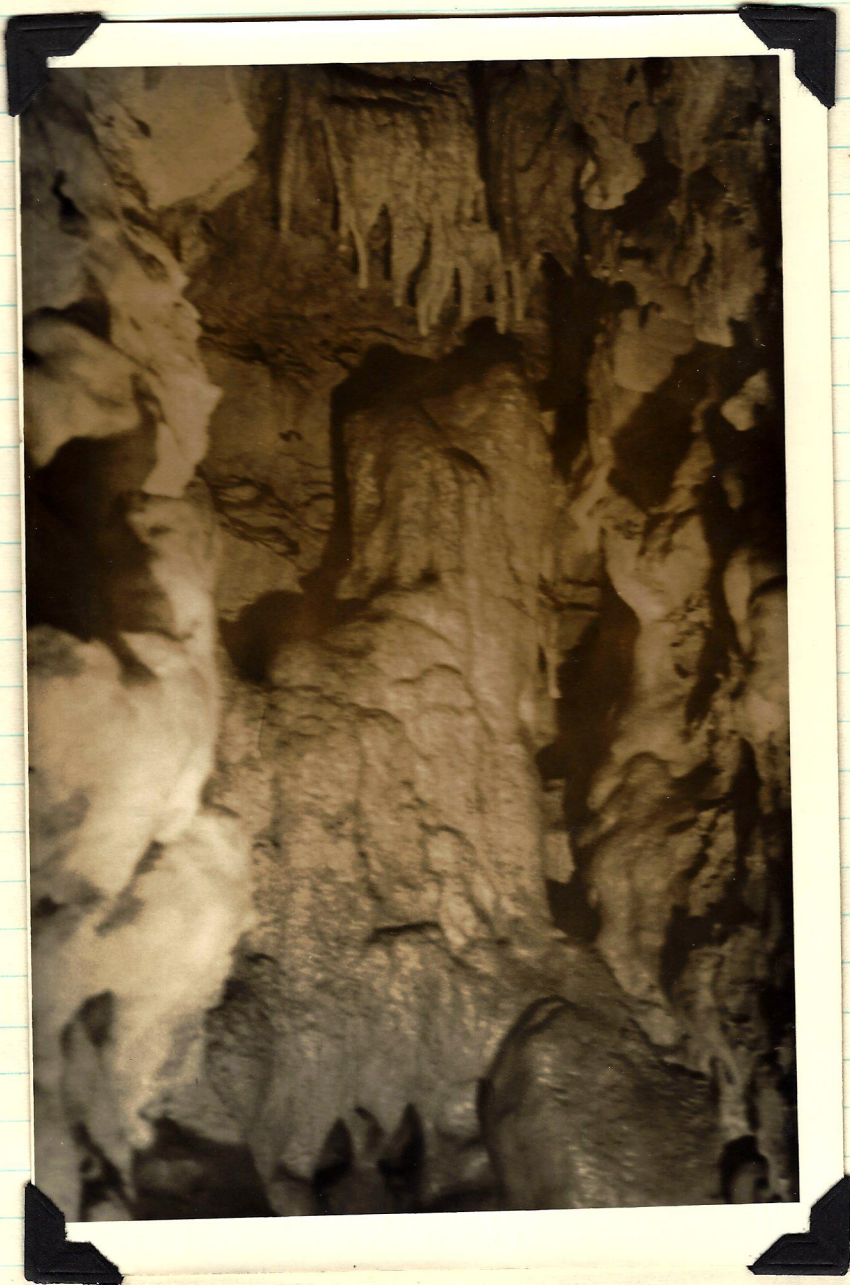
Mr. Ashley, of Winscombe, has been engaged in building a cowshed and food store on the site, for the owner, Mr. E. J. Wyatt.

30ft. Crevice

A 30ft.-long crevice leads to the cave, 40ft. below the surface. The crevice measures three feet at the widest section. The cave itself is about 100ft. long.

Several caving groups have already made the descent, and many photographs have been taken.

An Axbridge Caving Group member said a number of similar caves had been discovered in the district, but they had now been covered up. There were 40 feet



Small Grotto. Reservoir Hole, Cheddar.

14th/15th May 1960.

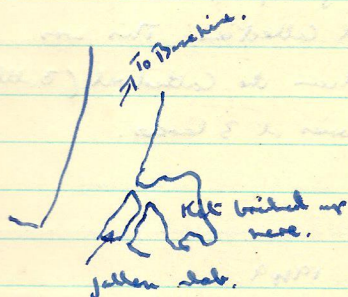
Bore Mines, Wiltshire.

14th R. Tucker, Mike Peters, Self.

15th T. & G. Jackson, Peter Chatter, Mike Kneea, R. Mudge, K. Fawcett, R. Stevenson.

Took out enough kit and food for 6 weekends and tapes & compasses for beginning of the survey.

Diagram shows small working where we hit our hit.



A line was found in the cave where we could begin the survey. This was called the base line and was 85' long.

Astro Compass, MK II. 6.A/1144. Continental tripod size 39.

Double Spirit level.

Survey marks were to be painted:-

85'
↑

and were to be given names if necessary:-

FOURWAYS.

Ref ①. Oxford Stone - W. J. Arkell.

Faber & Faber. 1946.

pps 92-95.

Hazlebury Quarry - Long disused. Near Bore.

John Aubrey 17th C Antiquary -

Hazlebury Quarry is not to be forgot,
it is the eminentest Quarry in the W of England.

The story goes that St. Aldhelm riding over the quarry
drove down his glove and told the people to dig & find treasure.

J. Aubrey (1659-40) Wiltshire Topographical Collection. This was
enlarged by J.E. Jackson (1862) p. 58 mentions the Cathedral (Buttle
shaped a 100' deep abandoned c 1850. Galleries at 3 levels.

Ref ②. Geology & Scenery - A.E. Trueman.

Penguin. 1949.

p. 24.

The churches and more important buildings have derived
their stones from well known beds in Range quarries; some stones
of Melnesbury & nearby Abbeys were from Bore.

Ref ③ Bristol & Gloucester District Regional Geology - Kellaway & Welch,
HMSO

pps 71 & 75.

Great Oolite limestone - hard, white shelly - often current
beds: Box - Cirencoar. Area of average thickness 100-125 ft.

21st / 22nd May 1960.

Bone Mines, Wiltshire.

Bone - line - Cathedral (E/gate). 365'
" - D/G Rte. 1,302'.
Rock Pile - Front Alley - L.H. Hdr. 59.5'.

Fossils, Tarachontula, Rhynchonella, Crintheum, limna, Pecten, Gastropods etc.

28th / 29th May 1960.

α & β Passages from 4 ways 1521'.

4th / 6th June 1960.

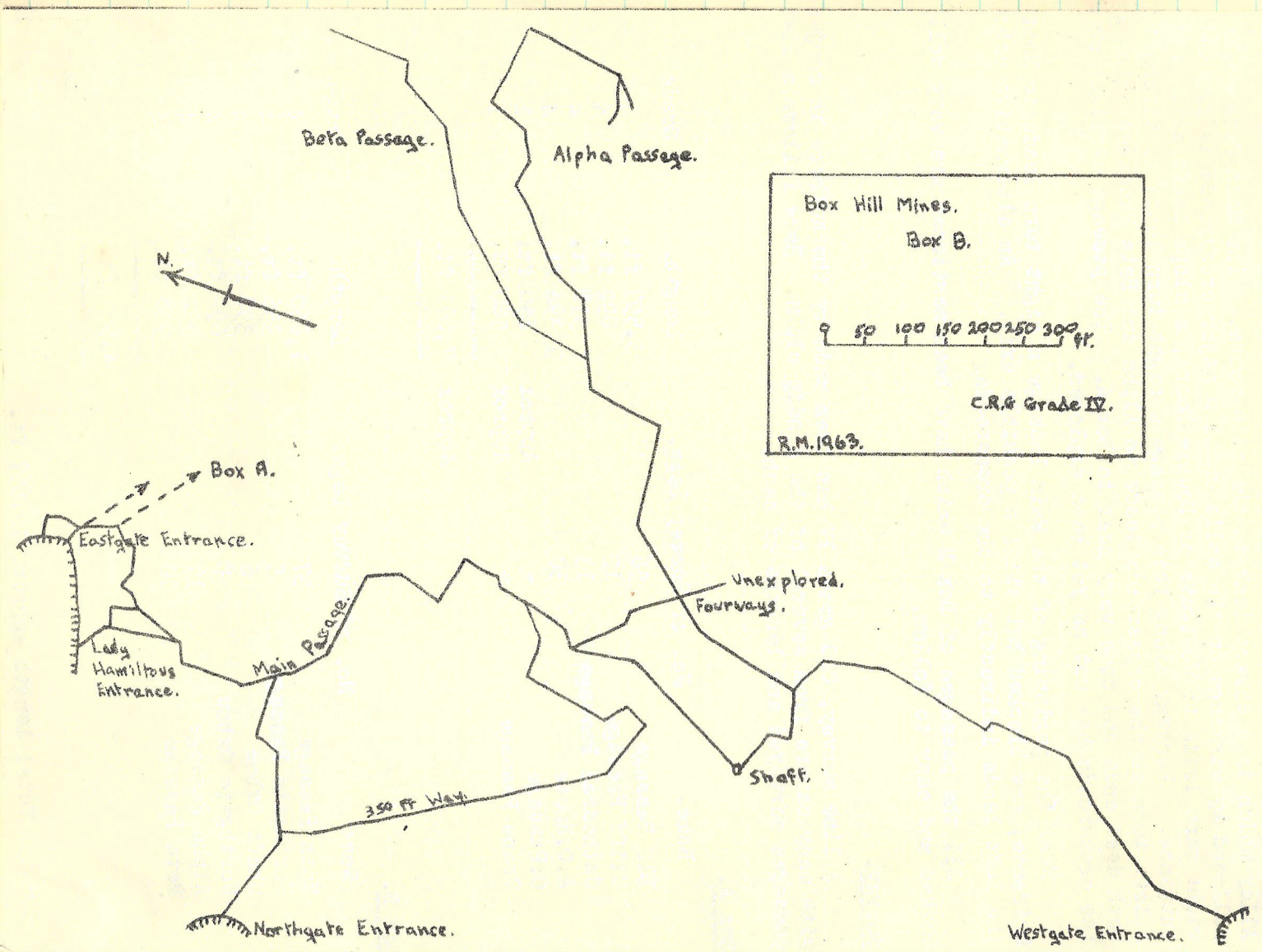
Bone line to N/gate 356'
Shaft Oxlow & 350' way 486' & 697.5'

Bone TB fully surveyed.

Notes for future articles.

Oxford Stone. W.B. Arkell. Fossils & Fakes. 1946. p. 92/5.
John Aubrey. 1659-70. Wiltshire Topographical Collection.
J.E. Turchin. 1862. enlarged edn of above. p. 58.
Trueman. Geology & Scenery. Penguin. 1949. p. 24.
HMSO. Great Marlston & Gloucester Dist. p. 41 & 45.

From this time on the survey was run by R. Bates.



19th June 1960.

A visit to Mendips by Tom Harrison from Niala Caves, Buenos Aires & head Medway of University of Singapore. Also present, Prof. E.H. Troughton, P.F. Bird, A. Odell, Self.

Goughs old Cave.

Via Long Hole. large colony of Greater Horseshoe Bats. Cave Probs yielded Ascellus (Cave Shrimp). Medway remarked on papers from Somerset Museum Ind. 300,000 Bats & Thousands Swiftlets.

Long Hole.

4 Lesser Horseshoe Bats found dead, 1 flying about and another hanging in the daylight zone.

Swildons Hole.

An interesting trip around the Gap of Swildons. Too much for Medway.

Star Roman Villa.

An archaeological dig by Archaeology Cave Club & Ken Barton of Museum.

D. Express

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 31 1960

IRON GRILLE TO CLOSE SWILDON'S HOLE

Owner bars way to flood caves

Express Staff Reporter

NEW safety measures are to be taken at Swildon's Hole, Somerset, where 20 potholers were trapped last week-end.

Mr. Albert Main, the 70-year-old farmer who owns the land, said yesterday: "If the police ask me to bar all potholers, I am prepared to do so."

"In the meantime, I am going to bar the entry with an iron grille which will be kept locked. Only experienced cavers known to me will be allowed down."

Senior officers of Somerset police have discussed last week-end's rescue. One said: "We were concerned about the difficulties we experienced."

"First there was the problem of how many were trapped. We were told it was five, then 16."

"Eventually, I understand, 20 were brought out."

PERILOUS

Other recent caving incidents in the area will be discussed by the committee of the Mendip Rescue Organisation at its next meeting. One of the organisation leaders, Mr. Luke Devenish, who headed the Swildon's rescue, welcomed Mr. Main's safety move.

"Swildon's has become more dangerous in recent years," he said. "More people seem to be going down. Some years ago the level reached by floodwater was only a couple of feet. Now it reaches up to 10ft. and 12ft."

Just over a year ago a potholer died of exposure after being lost in Swildon's Hole.

Potholers Trapped

28 AUG 1960

By Flood

11 Down Cave in Mendips

A RESCUE team was standing by early to-day to go to the aid of 11 potholers trapped by storm water in Swildon's Hole, a deep cave in the heart of the Mendip Hills near Wells, Somerset.

B.E.P. (?)

Police said that it would be some time before the water had subsided sufficiently to allow a descent by the rescuers. The trouble was caused by torrential rainstorms, which swept the West yesterday causing water to rise suddenly in the cave systems.

The alarm was raised when other potholers realised that the party was below a 40-ft. drop down which the storm water was gushing. The trapped people were led by Mr. David Berry, of Bristol.

Rescuers Forced Back

A rescue party, which entered the pothole late last night, was prevented from going beyond the first level by the torrent.

From the cave entrance they made contact by telephone with the cavers at 1.20 a.m. Information was received that the party numbered 11 including two schoolboys.

Mrs. Jack Main, daughter-in-law of the owner of Swildon's Hole, said that with seven others the five entered the cave about lunch-time in good conditions. Then they decided to go farther in. "We have had such torrential rain that the drop has filled with water," she said.

A rescuer said: "There is no danger at present except from cold. We believe at least some of them are wearing exposure suits."

Two other cavers trapped by water in St. Cuthbert's Swallet, about half a mile away, were able to make their escape after the Wells Fire Brigade, working for six hours, had pumped over 100,000 gallons of water from the pothole.

Elsewhere in the Mendips, in Gough's Caves at Cheddar, guides quickly brought out parties of visitors yesterday when floodwater flowed in rapidly. Guides carried out women and children as the water rose.

TIMES
ES MONDAY AUGUST

POTHOLERS HAULED TO SAFETY

28 AUG 1960
TRAPPED 12 HOURS BY FLOOD WATER

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

WELLS, AUG. 28

Eleven potholers trapped by flood water for over 12 hours in Swildon Hole, Priddy, Somerset, were rescued fit and well by members of the Mendip cave rescue organization early this morning.

While they were underground some two inches of rain fell and flooded the 40ft. drop a short distance from the entrance. Rescuers made contact with them after two attempts at about 1.30 a.m. It took three hours to complete the rescue, the potholers being assisted one by one through cascading water up the 40ft. drop by lifeline.

Patrick Buckley, of Birdale Close, Henbury, Bristol, who was celebrating his eighteenth birthday and having his first experience of potholing in the Mendips, was perhaps the luckiest member of the party. He was swept away by the current in an underground chamber and lost his torch and his boots.

SLIPPED OFF LEDGE

"While waiting on a ledge I slipped off and was carried under water for about 50 yards", he said. "I went down over a waterfall. Somehow I managed to grab hold of a rock. I clung on to it and climbed to a dry spot. I waited there for about three hours. I shouted, but no one heard. Suddenly I saw lights. Three or four chaps came along a ledge on the opposite side, saw me and sat there to cheer me up. They were members of the Wessex Caving Club who were also trapped. One of them went and got my friends. We were taken to a dry cavern and given clothes to keep warm."

Alan Nash, aged 17, of Silverhill Road, Henbury, gave high praise to the rescuers. "If it had not been for them", he said, "I think we should have been finished. They gave us clothing, hot soup and food just when it was needed. They could not have done anything better for us".

Earlier, Wells firemen came to the aid of two members of Bristol Exploration Club trapped by rising water in St. Cuthbert's Swallet, about half a mile away. The firemen pumped over 100,000 gallons of water from the swallet entrance to enable the men to escape.

MR. H. E. BALCH

Mr. Herbert Ernest Balch, who did much of the pioneer exploration of Wookey Hole, died at his home at Wells, Somerset, yesterday. He was 88. He started exploring the Mendip Caves, on which he became a leading authority, 75 years ago. A few years later, with his small collection of geological treasures, he opened the Wells Museum in one room. He gradually built up a collection of Wells "bygones" and prehistoric relics, and in 1944 the museum had to move to a large house. It now attracts about 20,000 visitors a year. Balch was honorary curator of the museum until a few years ago.

28 MAY 1958
The city of Wells, where he was born, where he began work as a Post Office messenger boy and rose to become Head Postmaster, made him an honorary freeman in 1944.

11 POTHOLERS RESCUED AFTER NIGHT OF TERROR

ELEVEN potholers, trapped by floodwater deep in the Mendip Hills, were rescued yesterday—some of them cut and bruised, but all well. Luckiest was Pat Muckley, of Birdale-close, Henbury, Bristol. Last night he told of the 17 hours of terror on his 18th birthday.



PAT MUCKLEY
Caught in torrent

Trapped in a 'tomb'

17 hours

By
PAT MUCKLEY

I WENT out early on Saturday to spend my birthday with my friend Alan Nash who had promised to take me down the potholes for the first time.

We went down Swildon's Hole, near Wells, before mid-day. It was fine then and there was no hint of danger. There were four of us.

At 3.30 we decided to make our way back because the water in the streams underground was rising.

When we reached a place called the Twin Pots, the water was very high. Nash and another chap managed to pull themselves up through it.

Hit rocks

I tried three times and fell about eight feet into a deep, fast underground stream.

I was swept 50 yards under water in the darkness, hitting rocks all the way. I was swept underground into another cave when suddenly I stopped, caught between two big stones.

A few yards in front of me the stream went into a big crack in a 70ft. waterfall.

I couldn't go forward and I couldn't go back and I was frightened to move.

At first I shouted and screamed for help. It was pitch dark and I thought I would never get out. My boots were sucked off my feet by the water.

'I prayed'

After a bit I got past being frightened of cold. I was sure I was going to die. I just cried and prayed. I was very worried about not having a priest with me before I died.

All of a sudden I saw lights and a woman and three or four chaps come along.

I can hardly remember being rescued. They took me to where the others were sitting in a cave waiting for the flood water to go down.

We sat for 12 hours chatting and I prayed some more before others came down from the surface and told us it would be all right to make our way up.

They told me I was found by accident. They had already rescued the people they were looking for and were doing a bit of exploring.

Then we were led to the surface by other rescuers with ropes.

FROM: THE DAILY EXPRESS.

Monday 29 Aug 1960

MY BIRTHDAY TERROR

Patrick celebrates after flood ordeal 250ft down

POTHOLER Patrick Muckley threw an 18th birthday party last night—hours after being nearly swept to his death by icy torrents of storm water 250ft. below ground.

And he told guests at the party in his Bristol home: "I guess I'm the luckiest fellow in the whole world to be with you tonight."

Patrick's ordeal began on Saturday when he and three friends descended 1,000 feet into



PATRICK MUCKLEY
"I'm very lucky"

Swildon's Hole, a cave in the Mendip Hills, Somerset.

The party was led by 17-year-old Alan Nash, of Service Hill-road, Bristol, and also included 17-year-old schoolboy Tommy Logan and 17-year-old civil servant Terry Taylor, both of Southmead, Bristol.

All went well until a sudden rainstorm sent storm water rushing round their feet.

HIS ORDEAL

Five hundred feet from the mouth of the cave the party came across double pots 20ft. deep—15ft. above normal.

Alan and Terry successfully skirted them and reached higher ground. But as Tommy and Pat-

By **PETER MOORHEAD**

rick attempted it, Patrick slipped and plunged into the torrent.

"We shone our torches into the pool," said Alan last night. "But he had vanished."

The storm water sucked him to the bottom of the pot and dragged him 50ft. along a rock-strewn narrow passage.

"The pressure was so terrific that I felt my Army boots being torn off," said Patrick at home in Birdale-close, Henbury, Bristol. "I thought I was a gonner."

In the pitch darkness he could do nothing but feebly attempt to clutch the side of the passage. Suddenly he was flung on to a rock and he held on.

HIS CRIES

Freezing, and cut and bruised, Patrick clung to the rock and shouted for help for **THREE HOURS.**

"Suddenly I saw lights and a woman and three or four chaps came along," said Patrick.

It was another party of experienced potholers who had also been exploring the cave.

"They sat on the opposite side of the ledge to cheer me up. I told them about my friends and they went to try to find them," said Patrick.

"One managed to get up to the other side of the ledge and we waited until the water went down."

"Then the Mendip rescue organisation chaps came down and brought us chocolate, soup and protective suits."

Both parties then clambered to safety up a 40ft. wire ladder.

Last word from Patrick: "I know I was lucky, but next time I'll be more careful. We all want to go potholing again. It's terrific."

From:

THE DAILY HERALD

Monday, 29 Aug

1960

BOY'S DREAD HOURS

Daily Sketch Reporter

A SCHOOLBOY yesterday told of his three hours trapped in a below-ground waterfall.

Patrick Muckley, saved with ten other potholers, was sucked beneath the flood-swollen water and swept 50 yards.

Ripped boots off

He surfaced and clambered in darkness—his party's flashlights had been lost—to a ledge.

"It seemed like eternity there," he said at a hostel in the Mendips.

"The cataract, 250ft. down, ripped my boots off.

"Think of it . . . this was my 18th birthday!"

Fifty potholers rescued the 11 through Swildon's Hole at 4 a.m.

First, firemen had to pump hundreds of thousands of gallons of water from the cave.

Forced back

Patrick, who lives at Henbury, Bristol, and three friends and two other groups went down on Saturday.

Four members of the Wessex Caving Club went to warn them of flooding. But water forced them back.

FROM: THE DAILY SKETCH

Monday, 29 Aug 1960.

Husband and wife cut off by 40 ft. torrent **FLOODS TRAP 5 IN 'HELL HOLE'**

FIVE potholers, including a husband and wife, were trapped by floodwater last night, in Swildon's Hole in the Mendip Hills, near Priddy, Somerset.

Firemen pumped water from the hole as members of the Mendip Rescue Organisation stood by.

The trapped men entered the cave at 11 a.m. The alarm was raised when other potholers noticed the volume of water gushing down the 40 ft. drop after a torrential thunderstorm.

Efforts were made to contact the trapped men by their portable telephone link-up without effect.

Swildon's Hole snakes for three-quarters of a mile and is one of the most dangerous in the Mendips. A young potholer died there last winter.

But the trapped men are believed to be experienced members of the Bristol Exploration Society trained to meet such an emergency—if they have a chance.

There is a rope ladder on the 40-ft. drop below which they are trapped. Water is cascading down, covering the ladder up which they must climb to safety.

Late last night police took lighting equipment to the mouth of the cave to guide rescuers, led by Mr. David

Late last night police took lighting equipment to the mouth of the cave to guide rescuers, led by Mr. David Berry, of Bristol, as they entered the shaft into the cave.

Mr. Robert Main, owner of the hole, said last night: "The position is not healthy. It is worrying that no contact has been made with them by their field telephone."

A police officer said: "All streams are swollen after the storm. It is believed the force of the cascade has stopped the potholers from climbing the ladder."

1,200 ft. down

"It is not known if any have been swept away when struggling to get out."

The trapped men—1,200 feet underground—are led by Mr. David Berry, of Bristol. The married couple are Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lawden.

It was really "Deadline Midnight" last night. Television viewers saw a pothole rescue in that newspaper serial twelve days ago.

FROM: THE PEOPLE

Sunday, 28 Aug 1960.

SPELAEOLOGICAL GROUP

This is an unofficial group, but it attracts members from both Arts and Science Sixths as well as the Fifth forms. No set programme is followed, but expeditions are arranged by mutual agreement.

Under the able leadership of R. W. Mansfield, the group has made expeditions to the Burrington Combe, Priddy, Cheddar, Winford, Dundry and Loxton areas. Excavation has been done at

Clarken Coombe, Burrington, Lawrence Weston and is now centred on Bleadon.

The major work of the year has been the survey and exploration of Box Freestone Quarries, under the aegis of the Mendip Nature Research Committee. The extent of the quarries was not realised at first and it was hoped to complete a full survey, but this has now been modified to cover the areas not already explored and plotted by other groups.

Several week-ends have been passed there, and one of the many interesting discoveries has been a resonant underground "cathedral", domed like St. Paul's, 80-100 feet high, roughly 50 feet wide, and with a "nave" 200 feet long.

In conclusion, we must thank Mr. A. Oldham (M.N.R.C.) and Mr. P. F. Bird, curator of botany and zoology at Bristol Museum, for their continued interest in the group.

R.J.T.

FOUND SKULLS IN POTHOLE Ealing man's adventure in the Mendips

YOU may not find gold in the Mendip Hills—but if you grope your way 80 feet down through the limestone rock passages and tunnels, you may find some bones. An Ealing potholer did recently.

Twenty-two-year-old Mr. Robert Charnock, of 9, Ealing Park-gardens, Ealing, is a member of the Mendip Hills Cave Society, and when he and other members of the club found a cavern in the hills recently, they had no idea what awaited them 80 feet below ground, half buried in a small chamber.

"We came across the hole, in a deep depression in the ground, more by luck than judgment," said Mr. Charnock. "Because we had to dig for it. Most of the holes in the Mendip Hills are not 'open' but are covered with earth."

"Ubley Hill Pot"

An ardent potholing enthusiast, Mr. Charnock described the society's latest pothole, named "Ubley Hill Pot," as having a small hole in the ground as an entrance, with a vertical drop of 20 ft.

This leads into a small chamber, which in turn gives way to a steep 60-ft. long narrow passage. At the end of the passage is a second vertical shaft of 30 feet, leading into the main chamber, which slopes to an angle of about 40 degrees.

"The bottom of this chamber," said Mr. Charnock, "was covered in a bed of thick mud, traversed by a tiny stream. Half buried in the ooze were numerous bones—some human, some animal."

Human skulls

Going on to describe his "find," Mr. Charnock said, "There are at least three complete human skulls and an almost complete human skeleton, the origin of which cannot be traced."

"It has been estimated by Professor L. Palmer, of Wells Museum, that the bones are three hundred or more years old, but how they came to be in the cave remains a mystery."

"Several possible theories have been put forward. They could have been washed in, for there is not a complete skeleton in the cave, either animal or human, but something would have had to have brought them into their present position; the small trickle of water flowing across the floor of the chamber is completely inadequate."

"The finding of bones in pot-holes has happened before, but in those cases the holes have invariably been known to have been occupied—in this case there is no evidence of the hole being lived in."

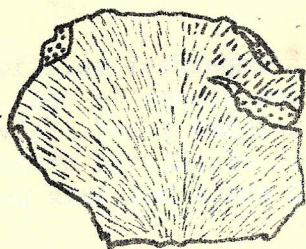
Burial pit theory

Another theory is that the bones could have been thrown in—the pot hole being used as a burial pit. "But," said Mr. Charnock, "the cave is three miles away from the nearest village—and how far away it was from a village three hundred years ago no one knows. Anyway you wouldn't just throw a head into a burial pit."

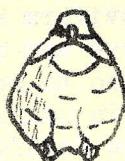
After the bones were found, police began making inquiries, but after it was established the bones were over three hundred years old the investigations were dropped.

"The bones will go to a museum, if we can find one which wants some," said Mr. Charnock.

County Times and Gazette
13.8.60



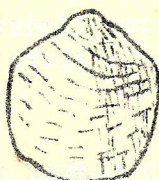
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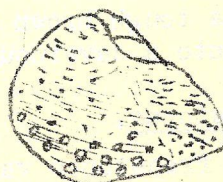
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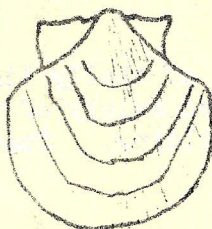
4.



5.



6.



7.



8.



9.

1. *Eunomia radiata*.
2. *Terebratulina submaxillata*.
3. *Rhynchonella concinna*.
4. *Cardium striatulum*.

5. *Trigonia* Sp.
6. *Nerinaea* Sp.
7. *Pecten valoniensis*.
8. *Patella rugosa*.
9. *Purporoidea nodulata*.

Great Oolite Fossils. Box.

R.M. 1963.

13.8.00
 0705002 found 0011 1963

Pals watch, helpless, as torrent traps him upside down

CAVE-MAN HORROR

40 seek secret of Swildon's Hole, then—

Student dies in freezing waterfall

By ARTHUR SMITH

A 22-YEAR-OLD student trying to escape from a cave threatened by flood water died as he hung upside down on a rope ladder under a freezing cold waterfall.

The student, John Wallington, was in a party of 40 exploring the Mendip Hills in Somerset. They set out on Saturday to discover "Swildon's Secret"—a flooded chamber where no man has set foot—a mile inside Swildon's Hole.

The secret remains. The explorers had to turn back when water from thawing snow and ice poured into the cave. To escape they had to climb up a nine-inch-wide rope ladder to get to a ledge 40 feet above.

By the time they reached the ladder they were waist deep in water. And more flood water was pouring over the ledge they were trying to reach.



Death in the waterfall—a "Herald" artist's impression.

FROGMEN

Wallington, of Great Brookeridge, Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol, died as he was being hauled to safety by a rescue party above.

He slipped, caught his toe in the ladder and hung like a plumbline in the waterfall for 10 minutes before he was pulled to the top.

The party were in high spirits when they climbed into the small entrance of Swildon's Hole early in the afternoon.

Two carried frogmen's kit. They were to make the final assault on "Swildon's Secret." The rest carried food, oxygen cylinders, ropes, lighting and other equipment.

But as they worked their way deeper into the hill a watch party left at the cave entrance saw the water start to gush into the opening.

EXHAUSTION

The explorers were all set for the final assault when a warning came through the darkness: *THE WATER IS RISING.*

Quickly the explorers made for the entrance. But now they had to battle against a strong flow of waist-high water.

They were 400 feet from the entrance when they reached the rope ladder. By now many of them were near exhaustion.

Then they saw the waterfall. They were trapped.

Above them a seven-strong rescue party were on the way—sent for by the people left on watch.

The rescuers reached the ledge 40 feet above the explorers. Some of the trapped men were singing to keep up their spirits.

Others splashed about in the icy water to try to get warm.

LIFE-LINE

A life-line was dropped down and the rescue party started to haul the explorers to safety. It was essential for the trapped men to use the rope ladder as much as they could.

But Mr. Howard Kennedy, 31-year-old leader of the rescue party, told me:

"When Wallington's turn came he was so weak he could hardly help himself up at all.

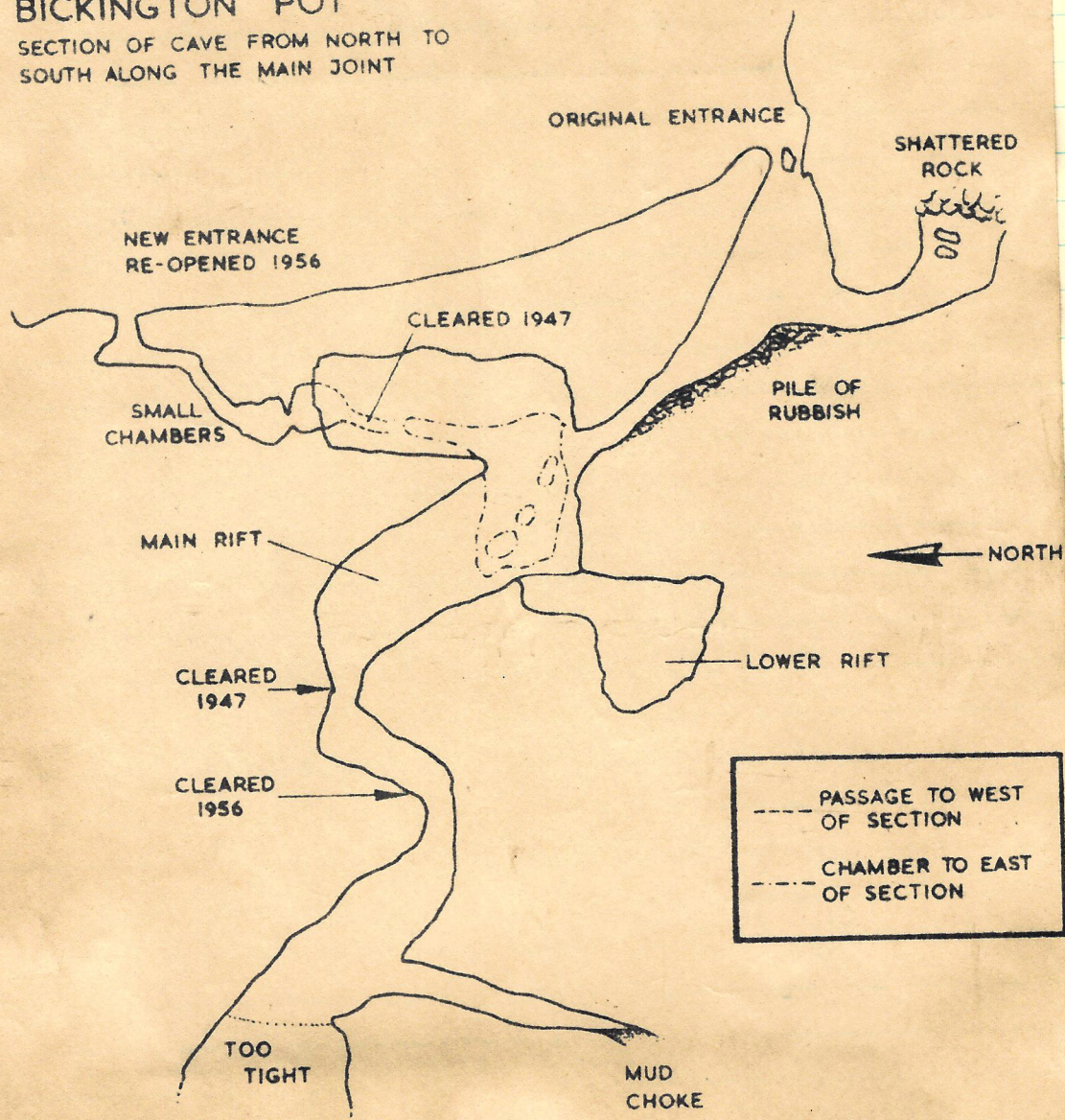
"Then he slipped and was engulfed by the icy water.

The rescuers took turns hauling Wallington's body to the cave entrance. His is the first death in the history of cave-climbing in the Mendips.

The other 39 cavers were rescued and last night were recovering in their homes, mostly in the Bristol area.

BICKINGTON POT

SECTION OF CAVE FROM NORTH TO
SOUTH ALONG THE MAIN JOINT



Surrey C. Reynolds

SCALE. 1 INCH : 20 FEET APPROX.

31st March - 3rd April 1961.

The South Devon Cores.

Bakers Pit and Saint Michael. An interesting inter-glacial site.

First met the P.S.S. George King, Chris Reynolds, Brian Mutton, Les Neil, D. Snarlen.

28th May 1961.

Guildford to Sump 1.

Planned trip to Devils Trench cancelled so did rearranging trip. Cleaned off notes & picked up old papers etc. Found 3 carbide lamps, 1 box specimen tins, 2 rings, 1 boiler unit and several empty carbide tins.

3rd June 1961.

G.B. Cove.

Down via The Ooze and up the Devils Elbow, back down and still remained and gave us a wetting.

4th June 1961.

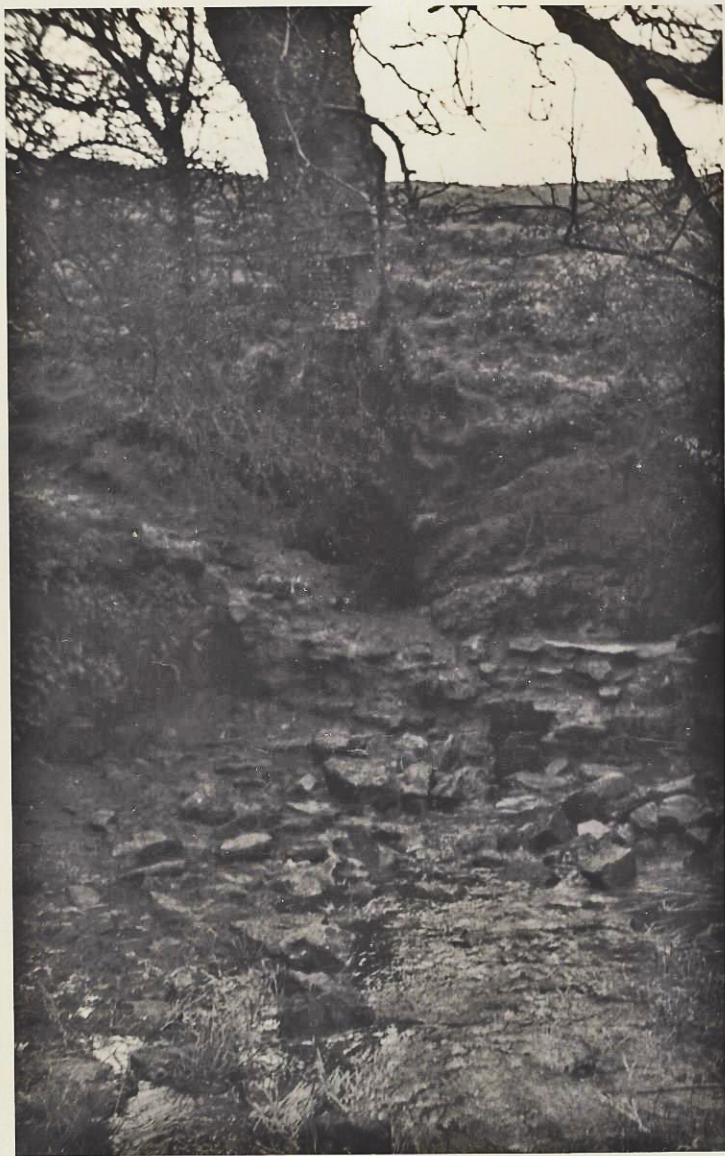
Box Mines. Wiltshire.

Took party of MRC members around the workings.

4th June 1961.

Winford Ooze Workings.

Paul Hancock, Roy Derry & Self. Found specimens of lead and Bristle Diamonds. In very bad state of collapse.



Entrance, Swildons Hole.

10th June 1961.

Lamb West.

P. Hancock, B. A. Cullen, C. Shelley, B. Teagle, B. Denny, R. Coing, D. T. Edwards. Self.

Digging in final chamber in main dig route before branching off into the rift. Proceeded approx 4 feet through boulders and clay. Much of the sides had to be smashed away and another 4 feet of passage can now be seen. The squeeze prior to this chamber has been widened and cut deeper into the clay - a great help.

Penn Park Hole.

As above.

Entrance is a 30 ft shaft, the bottom at 60' into a very muddy (grey) floor. The passage slopes down through boulders to the head of a 75 ft shaft (The main chamber).

The walls are covered with very fine calcite. The main chamber is about 120 ft high but has roughly the same area as Lamb West. There is a lake at the bottom and on this visit it was approx 40 ft deep and had a grey mud rim around it. On the east passage this grey mud was three deep.

The cave appears to be formed along a large rift with calcite crystals lining most of the walls. Returned to surface at 04.20 hrs Sunday 11th June.

11th June 1961.

Boss Mines, Wiltshire.

A short trip around the mines to collect fossils. Many found in Fossil Alley.



lake, Pan Park Hole.

14th June 1961.

humble heart.

honeye party in the day. At some place and broke the sides very a bit more advancing another 1/2 ft where we could see a small pool of water contained in a solid chole.

18th June 1961.

honeywood / August Hole.

Full trip around the entire system.

2nd July 1961.

Double Trouble.

R. Denny, R. Craig, R. Tangle, Self.

Arrived at Trouble very quickly, water very low. System has some very fine formations and good much stony water. Many were going up from passage in glistening gallery.

5th July 1961.

Avon Gorge.

Looked at Bridge Cove, Old Railway Tunnel, Tuck's Hole & Hochen Cove.
St. Andrews Well Working. Very enjoyable trip.

NB. See notes by E.K. Troutman. DBSS Page (1) 3.



Main pitch, home best.

CHASM OPENS UNDER 47-TON BULLDOZER IN QUARRY

Only seconds saved a £23,500 bulldozer from disaster at a quarry near Bristol. That was the length of time it took the 47-ton machine to move as the earth under its back wheels crumbled away to reveal a pitshaft 250 years. old.

In the darkness, workmen's torches illuminated the gaping hole, but could not reach the bottom. And it was not until daylight that the real danger to the machine, one of only three in this country, was realised.

Then a well-known Somerset potholer was lowered by rope down the shaft—and 15ft. lower found a cavern hewn out of the limestone, 30ft. long, 25ft. wide, and eight feet high.

Lower still were other workings, with a long working shaft parallel with the ground at about 35ft.

NEW TECHNIQUE

The incident happened at Coles Quarry, Backwell, where the bulldozer was using a new "ripping" technique, pulling out 300-400 tons of limestone an hour by means of a "tooth" attached to the front of the machine.

Experts put the date of the mine at about 1710. There was no previous record of one having been there, and it was a very primitive affair.

Quarry manager Mr. D. S. Dannicliift told the Evening Post today the old workings had been dug for ochre which was used for dyeing cloth.

The Caves of the Avon Gorge

a) Heigh Woods. Left Bank.

1. In conglomerate 50/70 ft above River, at mouth of Spa Valley.
2. Nightingale Valley Rd to N. side of valley.
3. S. side of same valley.
4. Same valley, 150 yds from above - 2 entrances.
5. Under road by S. side of Nightingale Valley.
6. In west N. Quarry.
7. Level of railway. 15 yds S of Suspension Bridge.
8. Buswells Cwe.

b) Portway. Right Bank.

9. At road level under S. Bridge.
10. Ghyllens Cave (Shaw).
11. Jacks Hole - around bluff from above.
12. Hades Cave - in Tennis Court Quarry R/H.
13. In middle of above quarry.
14. At above L/H, 50' from top of cliff.
15. Near St. Andrews Well in the gully.
16. In grounds of Mr. H.H. Townsend.
17. Under Drinking Fountain near Dolite Quarry.

Royal York Crescent - Clifton.

Green Mine in Millstone Grit (1872).

Entrance via 50 ft shaft. Working E. & W.

July 29th 1961.

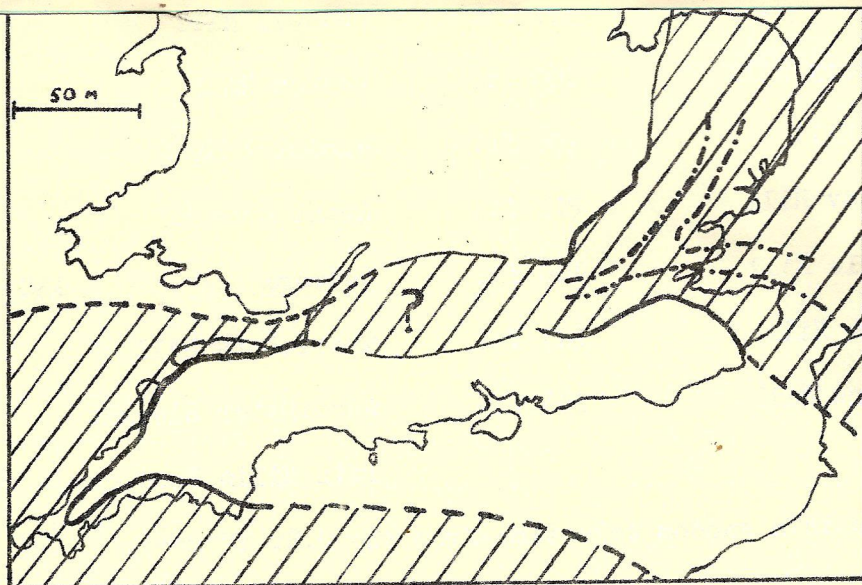
It would be greatly appreciated if you could help us on the carry-in trip on July 29th. It will be possible to visit the new extensions in VI, provided that you wear an exposure suit.

SWILDON'S HOLE DIVING OPERATIONS - AUGUST, 1961.

On Saturday July 8th, following up from our recent opening up of Swildon's VI, we managed to pass Sump VI and reach Swildon's VII. Only one diver, (M. Boon) has entered Series VII and it is obviously necessary to explore and survey the new series quickly if it is to be done this summer. Unfortunately the sump is too deep (the entrance is about 8' below water level) for it to be a practical proposition for free divers. We intend to dive on Saturday August 5th, with a kit carrying trip the weekend before on Saturday July 29th.

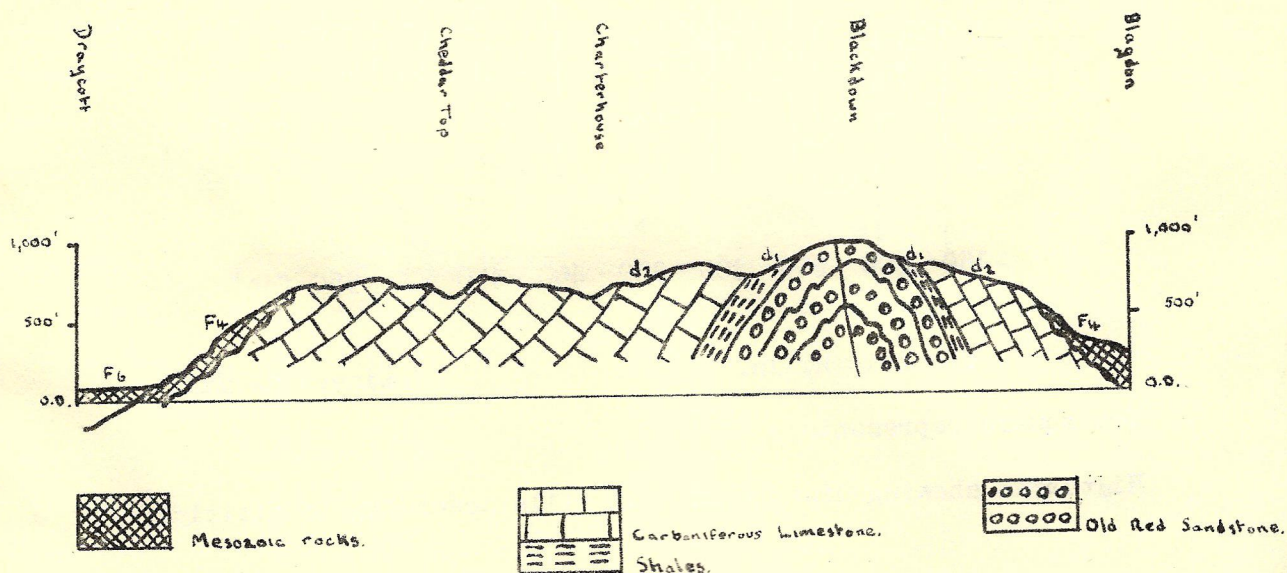
SATURDAY JULY 29th.

As large a party as possible will be collected together to carry lead weights into Swildon's IV. 60 lb. of lead weights, plus kitchen equipment and spare oxygen have to be carried into the cave. The kitchen equipment and spare gas will be carried as far as VI. All helpers should meet at Maine's Barn at 09.30 hours on the day of the trip. All helpers must be responsible for their own spares and food.



Early Pliocene Geography.

- ~ 400 ft platform of Devon and Cornwall
and presumed contemporaneous platforms in S.E.
- presumed continuations of same.
- ... later shorelines (Coralline Crag etc).
- ▨ Sea. Land, unshaded.



July 29th / Aug 4th 1961

S. Wales 1961.

A week at Barch-lwyd.

Bob Craig, Ray Deasy, Mike Peters, Julian Fortnum, Terrie Edwards, Self.

Weather was very good and hospitality of Tim Newell's very generous.

Two new caves were discovered. Ogof-y-ddeffed Row and one near it.

Digging commenced in the river bed (Mfon Nedd) near the bridge (see survey overleaf) on July 30/31st but well filled up after heavy rain on Aug 3rd. All rivers in the river as far as Pwll-y-Rhyd were surveyed.

A promising entrance to a resurgence was dug on the lower slopes of Pont Mawr but time did not permit more than a few hours work.

Leaving was a great success.

White holly, Tarn Ddraig, Bridge Cave, Pwll-y-Rhyd, Bridge Cave, Pont Mawr Pot, Pwll-y-Ogof.

Water was low in White holly & Tarn Ddraig - tried to dig in White holly Trench. Could not find connection between White holly & Pwll-y-Rhyd but followed it to 3rd chamber where an exit was made into the dry valley.

Bridge Cave explored to boulder choke near water but boulders very loose.

Pont Mawr Pot entrance pitch 50' x 40' rather. As large as the gorge in GB except the giant boulder choke - great difficulty in finding way as very fine cave with excellent formation. Very improved by the fire hydrant. The last 200ft narrow down until the end becomes a slump.

Pulpit Hole was looked for but not found.

All floated through Pwll-y-Ogof - very fine report.

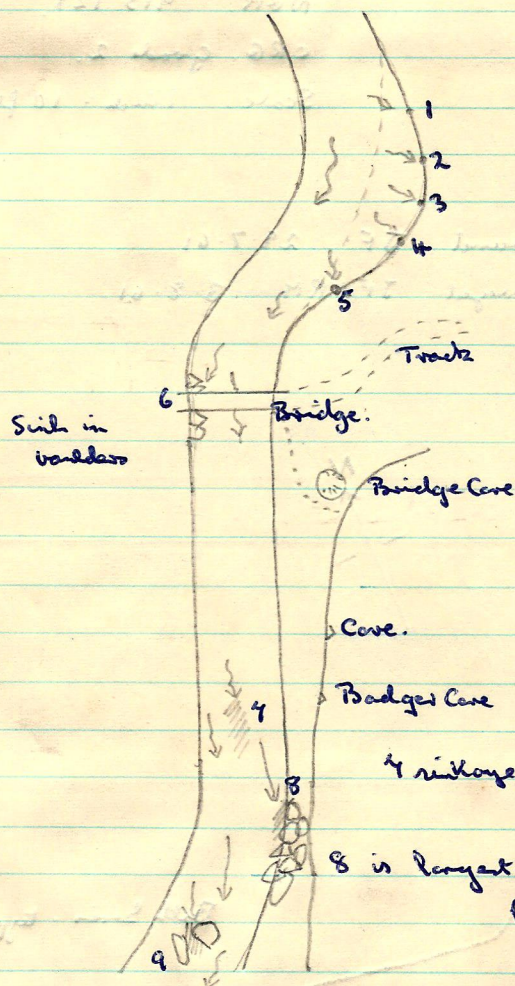
See MNRG Newsletter Oct 1961.

Brit Cave Vol 33. 1961.

SWCC Newsletter End of 1961.



Stalactites, Point Mount Pat.



Sinks 1, 2, 3, 4. dug 30/31st July 1961.
but filled in after heavy rain 3rd Aug.

Surveyed by JF & RM. 31/7/61 - 4/8/61.

See MWRC Nitr. 1961

SWCC Nitr.

British Caver. Vol 3 p.

Ogof - y - Delyd Harw.

NBR. 915 128

CRG. Grade 2.

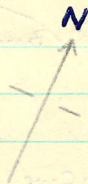
Scale, 1 inch = 10 ft.

15 ft. high

Found JF 29.7.61.

Surveyed JF & RM 3.8.61.

Right Series.



4 ft high

Bath Series - typical pot-formula.

Back Series

10 ft high

- 34 -

-48

- 325

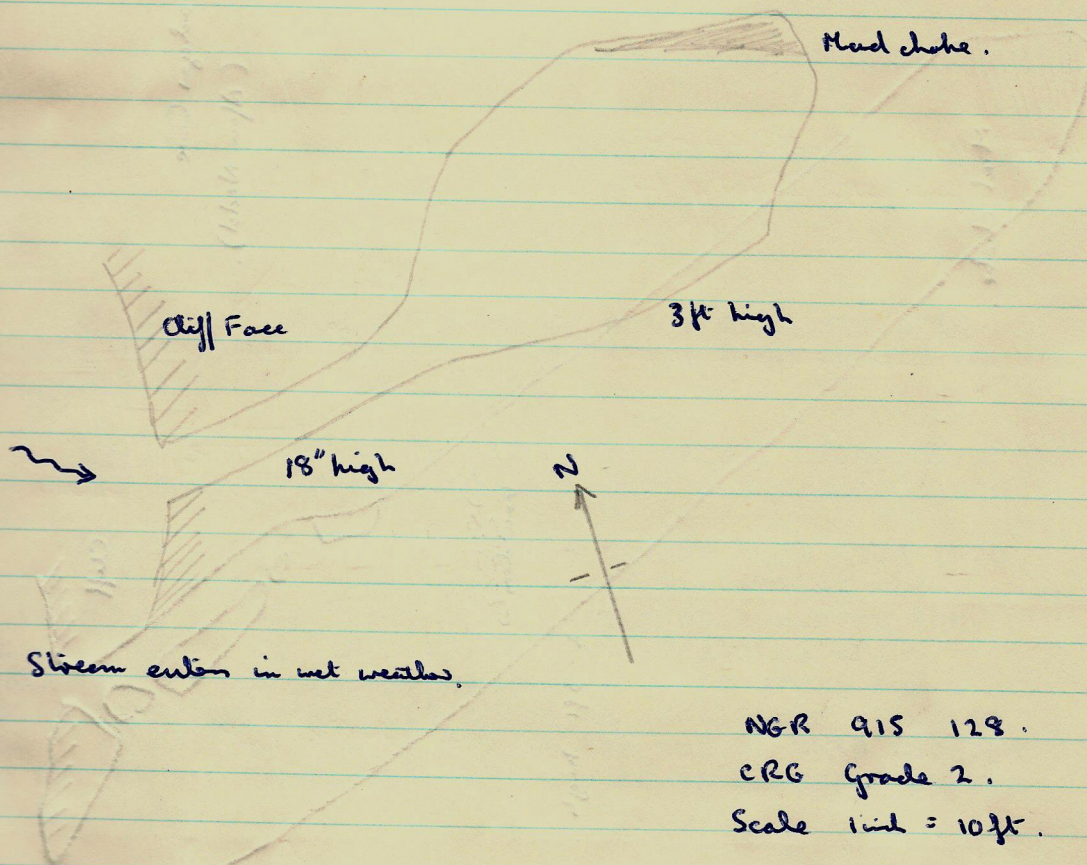
Choke

34.

8 ft high

Entrance.

Page



Boatage Cove
(Mou Nedd).

Cliff

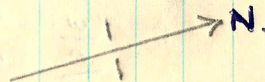
Face

NGR 912 139
CRG grade 2.
Scale 1 inch = 10 ft.

Surveyed JF + RM 3/8/61.

boulders

2-3 ft high.



Mud choke.

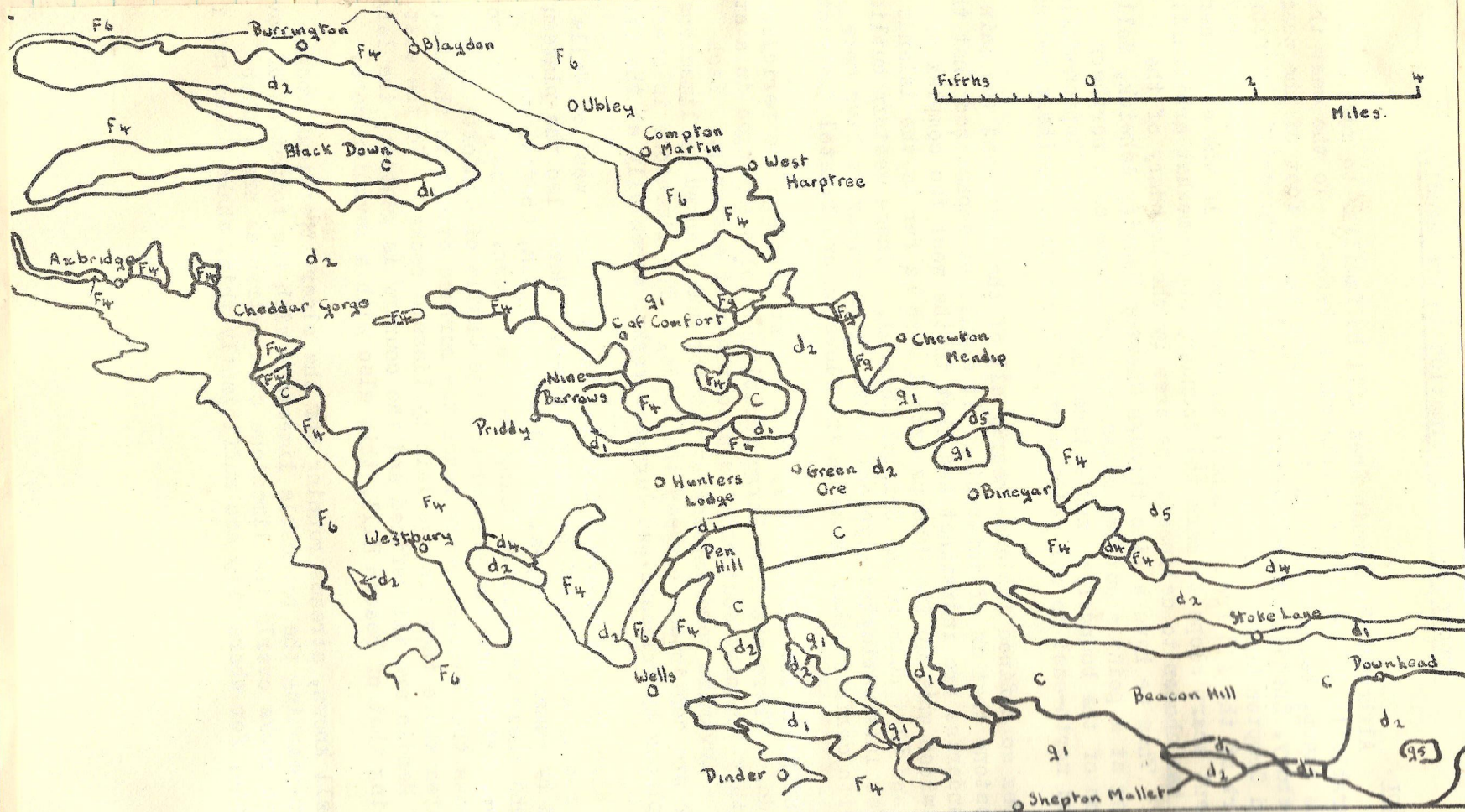
Aug 5th 1961.

Swildon Hole.

09.30 Support party to enter the cave with tackle and proceed to VI. In VI hot food should be prepared for the divers.

10.00 Divers to enter the cave. Each diver to carry his own breathing equipment and proceed into VI.

After a hot meal in VI the divers will dive into and explore and survey Swildon's VII. Whilst the divers are in VII the support party will survey the inlet passage on the left hand side just before Sump VI. This passage commences as an aven, and a nylon rope has been left there to facilitate climbing up. It is just possible that the end of this passage is fairly near Swildon's VII and so an accurate survey is important.



g5 Inf Oolite.	F4 Dolomitic Cong.	d1 Lower Limestone Shales.
g1 Lower Lias.	d5 Coal Measures.	C Old Red Sandstone.
Fg Rhaetic.	d4 Millstone Grit.	
F6 Red Marl.	d2 Carboniferous Limestone.	

Mendip Geology.
After Geol Survey 1871.

M.H. 1968.

BAR POTHOLE AMATEURS —DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF

A 200-300ft. disused lead mine — Pen Park Hole — from which a Bristol amateur potholer was rescued at the week-end, should be out of bounds to all but experienced explorers, said the city's Deputy Chief Fire Officer, Mr. F. C. Revelle, today.

Entrance to the cavern is a hole in a field near Pen Park Road adjoining hundreds of council houses. It was there that the Rev.

Thomas Newnham met his death in 1775.

On Saturday night firemen were called to rescue 29-year-old Mr. Peter Batey of 29, Cranmore Crescent, South-

mead. He went exploring with his brother, Cuthbert.

Peter finished clinging for life on a narrow ledge overhanging a 100 foot drop, and hundreds of feet from the entrance. Cuthbert's 999 call brought a rescue team which hauled him to safety.

Mr. Revelle said today: "The opening to the shaft is enclosed with wire mesh; the actual opening is covered with pieces of wood like railway sleepers.

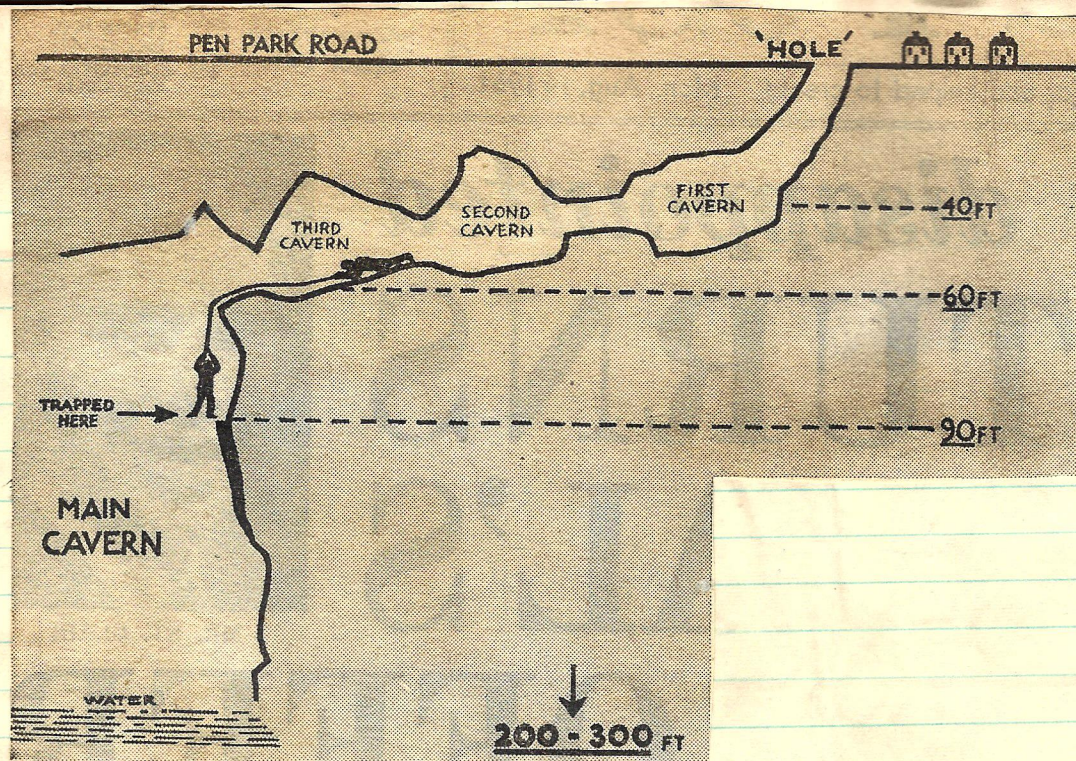
"Our feelings are that the place should be secured in such a way that access can only be obtained by authorised people properly equipped and properly supervised."

After the rescue, Cuthbert said: "It wasn't a prank. We went down to discover where the Rev. Thomas Newnham met his death, and to see what was at the bottom of the main cavern. Nobody has ever been down that far."

Peter found he was trapped when he could not climb back up the rope on which he had lowered himself.

Members of the rescue team spaced themselves out at intervals along the passageways and caverns as markers while Mr. Revelle and Sub Officer I. A. Tasker put a line around Peter and pulled him up.

Cuthbert, who lives at 90, Crosscombe Drive, Hartcliffe, said: "I feel a bit ashamed over this. I know we should have asked for permission, but we were afraid of being refused."



THE BATEY BROTHERS' sketch of the rescue scene in Pen Park Hole.



PETER BATEY, followed by his brother, Cuthbert, walks away from Pen Park Hole, Southmead, from which he was rescued by firemen and police after becoming trapped while potholing. (See story on Page 2.)

13th August 1961.

Hilliers Cove.

A full Hilliers trip. Very well attended.

Farnhill Cove.

All had a look at Farnhill & many specimens collected.

19th August 1961.

Weekend at Fairy Cove Cottage.

Several boats went off to dig at Holcombe Hole discovered by D. & B.
Also dug to depth of $4\frac{1}{2}$ ft. Seven people turned up for weekend.
Several to Sticks Lane and the rest did Hilliers & Fairy.

26th August 1961.

Holcombe Dig.

Filled in as former ramp it is a danger to cattle.

27th August 1961.

Swildons.

Two parties, one to Shallow Port & the other to Sump One. Many people in the cave and a large queue at the bottom of the 40ft pitch.

14th Sept. 1961.

Ent Manship.

Windsor Hill Quarry but found no trace of the cave. Waterlhip Quarry was all small and water in quarry was 15' lower than usual. Downhead Swallet was dry & blocked. Lost ourselves in dense woods. Nine Barton Swallet goes well.

Boy trapped in pothole too weak to help himself

BY OUR OWN REPORTER

CAVE rescue workers were called out last night to rescue a boy lying exhausted in Providence Pot, a cave near Kettlewell, in the Yorkshire Dales.

A police spokesman at Skipton said that the Upper Wharfedale Cave Rescue organisation was called out after receiving an S.O.S. that the boy was too weak to move.

"We do not expect much difficulty in getting him out," he said. The boy, whose name and address is not yet known, is staying at a Church of England hostel, Scargill House, near Kettlewell.

Providence Pot is the exit from the notorious Dow Pot, where several rescues have taken place.

A woman helper at Scargill House told me: "The boy down the pothole is called Robert and comes from Lancashire. He has just left school and is about 18.

Danger spot

"He was with another boy of about the same age, and they called here this afternoon to look round. They mentioned that they were going down the pothole; and members of the staff tried to dissuade them because it is so dangerous. They would not listen, however."

"Among the rescue workers is our deputy warden, the Rev. Dick Marsh, who is a member of the Fell Rescue organisation."

"The boy who was down with Robert gave the alarm. He has been back to the hostel and had a meal and now he has joined the rescue workers."

"According to this boy, Robert is too weak and exhausted to make any effort at all, but he is not in a dangerous position."

12-hour task

"He is in a part of the Pot called the Terrible Traverse, which is a narrow passage quite deep down in the Pot. Between Providence Pot and Dow Pot it would take a skilled cave rescue worker 12 hours to traverse all the passages, but we are hoping that Robert's companion will be able to pin-point his position."

"Prayers for the success of the rescue were said at an epilogue held in the hostel."

News chronicle
19/1/59 p 1

8th Oct 1961.

Pine Tree Pat.

R. Peary, T. Burke, M. Kree, Self.

A fine sporting trip during most of Easy Street - quite strenuous.

15th Oct 1961.

homb bees.

Very well attended trip. Very pleasurable day spent in digging the cave at several places in St. Valentine's Dig.

Ron & Paul in a side passage (LH) in 2nd chamber. John at end of 3rd chamber. Ray & Alan & Dave Mitchell in RH of 2nd chamber.

John Matheson dug at the end of E. passage.

23/24th Oct 1961.

homb bees.

Ron Temple & Self carried on digging. Passage on LH of 2nd chamber becomes very good.

25th/26th Oct 1961.

homb bees.

Further digging trip by R Temple & Self.

12th Nov 1961.

homb bees.

General digging at end of Rift in St. Vals.



Entrance, Lamb's Rest.

WELLS NATURAL HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

WINTER SESSION 1961-62 (Wells Museum)

Saturday, October 21, 5.30

A Journey, North Island, New Zealand.
Mr Geoffrey C. Budd.

lantern

★ Friday, November 3, 7.30

Jamaica, Above Ground and Underground
Professor L. S. Palmer, D.Sc., Ph.D.

lantern

Saturday, November 18, 5.30

Corporation Records.
Mr H. J. Dodd, Town Clerk of Wells.

Saturday, December 9, 5.30

City Churches of Bristol
Miss E. Ralph, F.S.A., City Archivist of Bristol

Friday, January 5, 5.30

Stone Age Factories.
Mr F. S. Wallis, D.Sc., Ph.D.

Friday, January 26

Annual General Meeting.
The President, The Lord Bishop, will preside.
Exhibition of "Family Treasures."

Saturday, February 17, 5.30

The American Museum in Britain.
Mr Ian McCallum, F.R.I.B.A.

lantern

Saturday, March 10, 5.30

The Berkeley Family.
Mrs Costley White.

★ Sponsored by Mendip Nature Research Committee.

Friends of members admitted at a charge of 1/6.

R. D. REID,

Hon. Secretary

The white Horse. Paath-yr-Ogof. Ystindfelle.

Nov. 3rd 1961.

Caves of Jamaica.

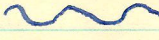
Analogy:-

Jamaica

Wendip.

50 m. soft l/stone.

250 m. hard Carb l/stone.

Jamaican scenery l/stone (RECENT). Surface erosion  etc.
40-170 inches rainfall per annum - erosion fast. Volcanic action is tremendous
and phreatic is in the order of 400% more than Wendip.

Variable denudation comparable to 200m years in Wendip, the
mountain foothills similar to the Welsh Mountains (Borddalen).

Boxin formation..... pot holes..... valley formation..... pits 400' deep.
(Cockpit Country). Soil is terra nova - due to ~~aluminium~~ ore (Bauxite)
Much honeycombed l/stone.

Tertling l/stones. MIOCENE $2/3$ rds.

l/stone entrance/exit covers at foot of l/stone shales and cretaceous cap rocks.

Mountains 4,000 ft +. Large numbers of caves. Geol. Survey many notes
a some exploration 300-400 caves, not a complete list.

In areas of non-existence, just walk a field.

400 caves only a small fraction.

Access limited to vegetation.

14th / 19th Nov. 1967.

South Devon.

Arrived Resett Green 10.30 pm Friday night & camped in Cave Entrance.

Victorious Lady Mine.

This is situated in the valley of the River Torrey. Mrs Osenford the guide lives quite close. Very fine minerals to be seen in the mine and on the old slag heaps outside. Malachite was quite common in the mine.

Many passages completely filled with water - only one explored was the Long Puddle (Knee Deep) from Crystal chamber. Came out at a side entrance only a few yards from the entrance in.

counted 80 greater Horseshoe Bats. Mrs. P. Osenford, 'Double Waters',
Yelverton, Devon.

Bakers Pit.

An interesting trip as far as Dutch Oven and Withern chambers.

9th Dec 1961.

Lamb Head.

Ron Teagle started the ladders fixing but I was ill in bed at the time.
From Roy Perry's Report.

' Collected a short length of iron ladder from Mr. Bennett & took into the cave. Work drilling Bolt Holes in ladder and carrying out Rawbolt Hole. Ladder now erected in position from second ledge. Cement required for rawbolts and secure chain from top of ladder footings.

10th Dec 1961.

Visited looks at Hunters Hole in Roy which EDCG.



Ron Tangle at top of main pit, hand held.

WELLS NATURAL HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
Mendip Nature Research Committee

At the Museum, Wells
Saturday, 16th December, 1961
at 7.30 p.m.

SPECIAL LECTURE

Illustrated by coloured slides on

Palettes in Californian Caves

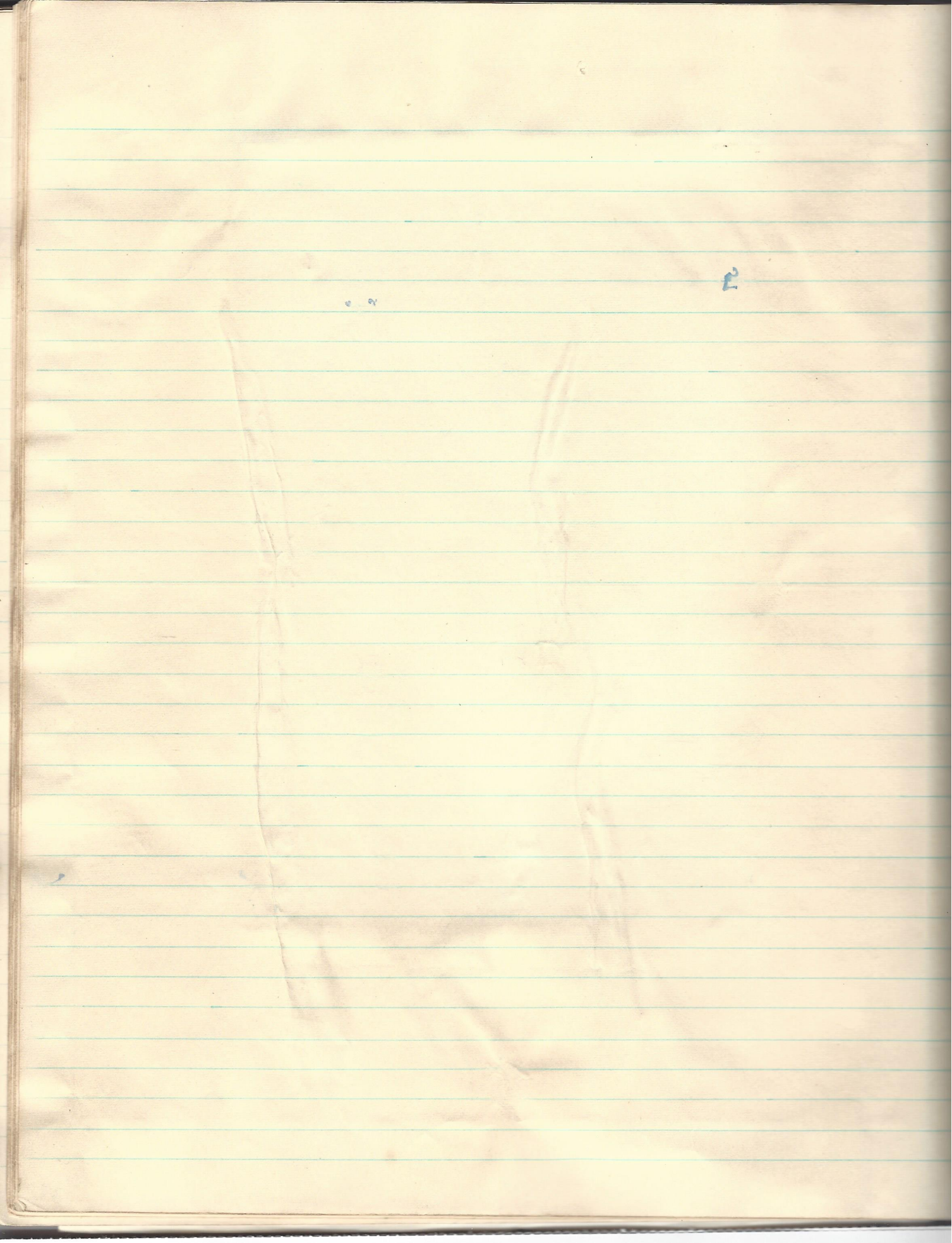
by Rane L. Curl, D.Sc.

Member of the Board of Directors of the National Speleological Society of America
Chairman of the Cave Rescue and Cave Safety Committee of America

A Practical Follow-up
of this lecture to identify "Palettes" in local caves will take place on
Sunday, 17th December, 1961

Members of all other Caving Clubs are specially invited

Printed at St Andrew's Press, 43 North Road, Wells, Somerset



17th Dec. 1961.

Cheddar Gorge.

A very clear cold winter day at Cheddar, the underground river still very high. Exploration of Great Ovens, Harry Hole & Goughs Old. The connection between Goughs Old and Harry Hole was used, a spouting ladder pitch of 30 feet into the Main chamber (Goughs). Top of the pitch is in horizontal limestone.

Sugar Hole was worth the visit (The old cottage has been demolished). Waterworks have built a door over the passage that leads to the lake. The lake had recently been higher as shown by sandy deposits on the walls.

22nd/26th Dec 1961.

South Wales.

Afan Allwedd.

Camped on Tron road in Bell Tent - froze overnight. Explored Aeggy to main Passage & all length of Main Passage - very interesting & exercising trip especially for Graham - very good through the squeezes.

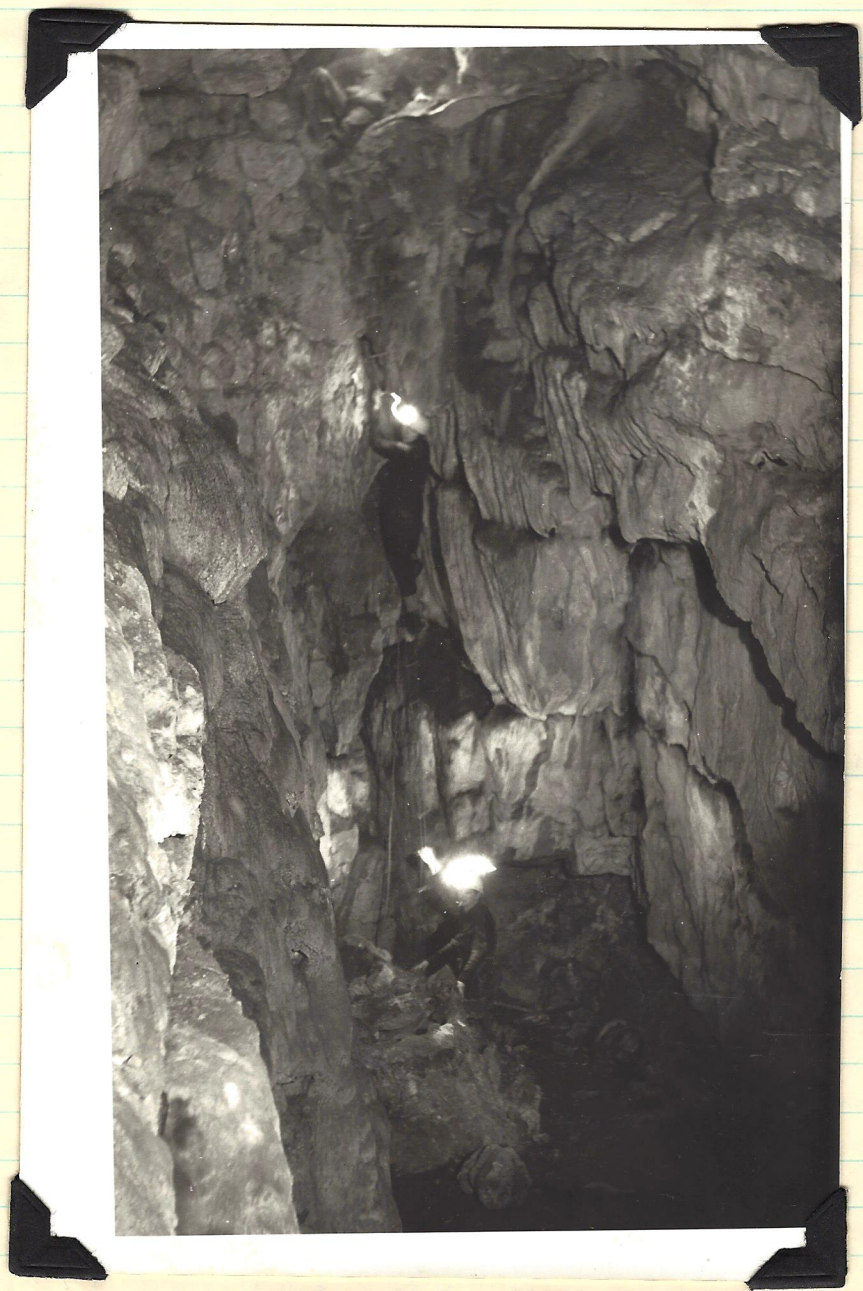
Barth - Lwyd.

Went over to Tinn and went down the Afon Nidd to Pull-y-Rhyd and on down the dry valley. Ron took many photos of ice encroaches. Water was only slightly higher than summer but recent flooding was apparent.

Went over with Ron to Mellt to see Barth-y-Ogof - river was again frozen but water in cave was quite high - the silt from Barth-y-Ogof had only 14" of air space. Hole noticed on RH side of river from entrance to cave - must look at it in the future.

visited Clun Gyron Waterfall - marvellous ice formations.

Fine way to end the year.



Patch between Long Hole & Gung's old Cave.

Jan 1st 1962.

hamb. haw.

Ren Teagle & Self.

Took Down the west of the rigid boulder and cut the hole for the top railbolt. Started to drill the sides of the boulder but met with considerable difficulty. Some fellows from Swinburn came down for a few hours and helped to cut the holes. The whole effort should now be finished.

Jan 11th 1962.

Attborough Swallet.

After looking at the depressions at Red Quas permission was obtained from Mr. Thompson (Chertem Farms Ltd), Estate Office, Chertem Manor, to start a dig. The surface vegetation was cleared and a pit roughly 5 ft by 5 ft was dug.

Jan 21st 1962.

Attborough Swallet.

In heavy rain a fence was constructed around the dig and a drainage channel was dug from the cattle trough to the top of the shaft. With hard work the shaft was dug to a depth of 8 feet - rock wall on one side. Ren Teagle went off to Bennetts chire to get a metal barrel to shore the shaft. This was put into place and water was diverted down its side.

Jan 23rd 1962.

Attborough Swallet.

Progressive digging - now the shaft is 12 feet deep. A passage was broken into but is very much choked at its beginning but a passage 15-20 ft long can be seen.

WELLS NATURAL HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

SUPPLEMENTARY MEETINGS for 1961-62

Owing to the desirability of issuing the programme of winter lectures as early as possible, the following M.N.R.C. lectures and A.G.M. are additional to the programme already printed.

Saturday, January 13th, 7.30 p.m.

Annual General Meeting, M.N.R.C.

Saturday, January 20th, 5.30 p.m.

"The Iron Ore Mines of the Brendon Hills"

Mr M. H. Jones, A.R.I.B.A. lantern

Friday, February 2nd, 7.30 p.m.

"Caving in Gibraltar"

Dr E. K. Tratman lantern

Saturday, March 17th, 5.30 p.m.

"The Caves of Slovenia"

D. Willis, F.R.G.S. lantern

The above are open to all members

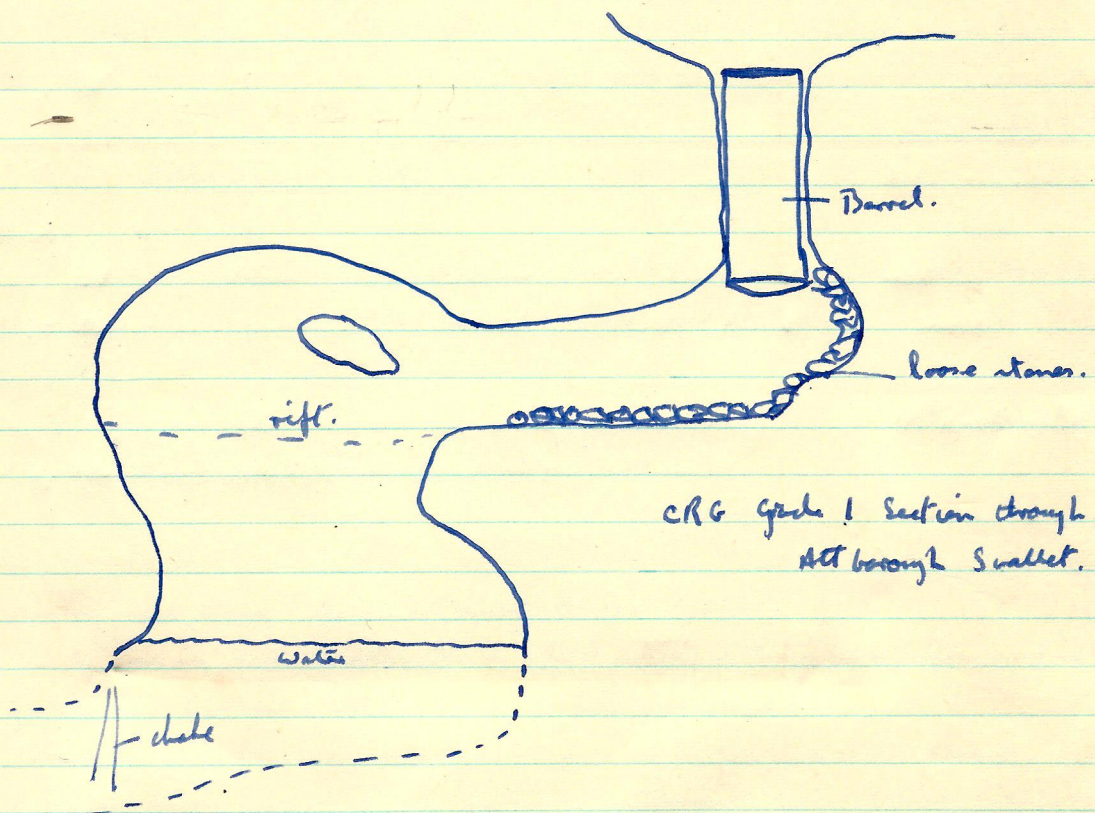
4th Feb. 1962.

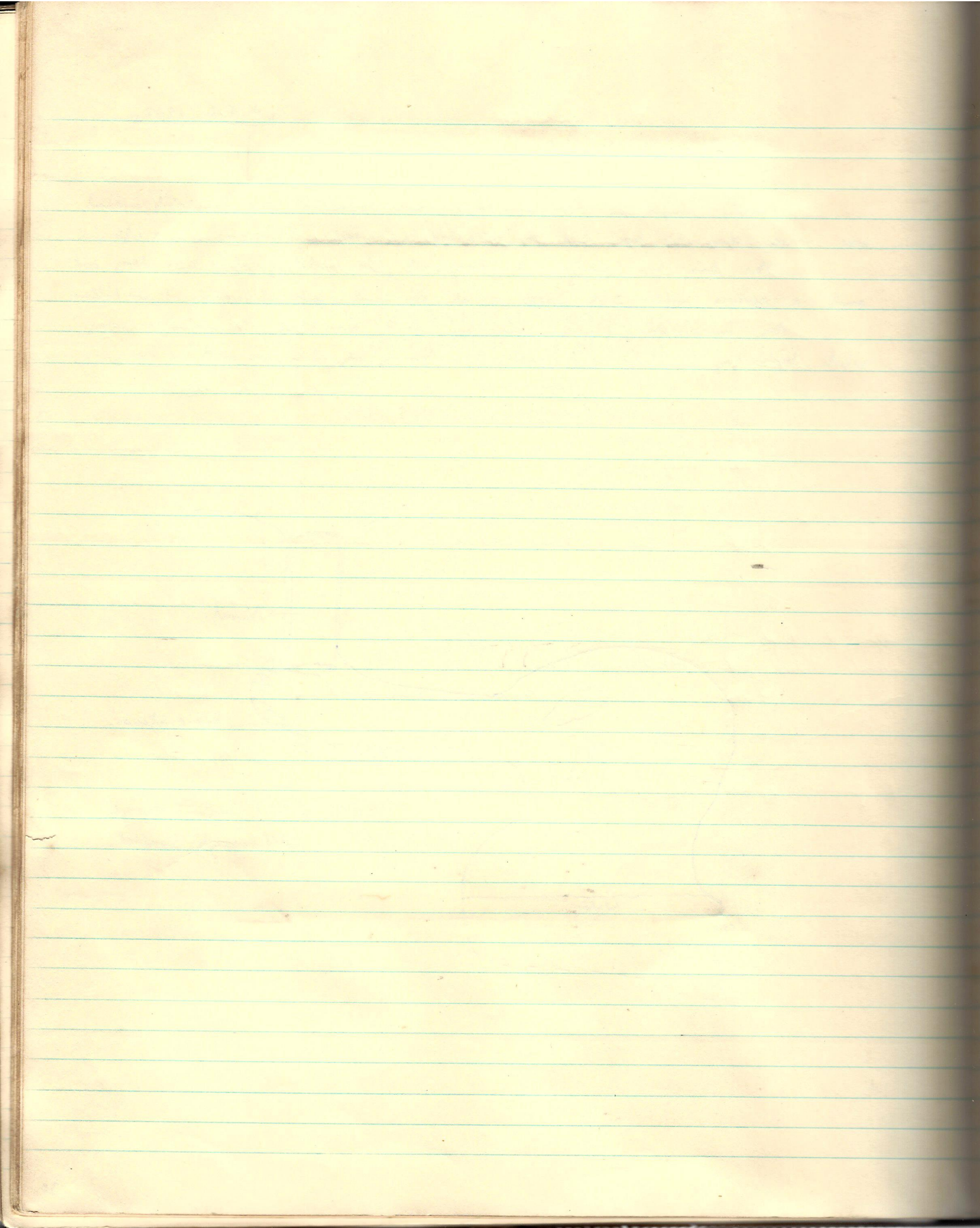
Atterborough Swallet.

Finally shafts on Red Pass Farm were looked at, one completely covered was more than 30' deep but the other had collapsed and was now only a 6ft pit.

The dig has progressed very well, the bedding plane was dug out and a narrow rift 8ft deep is at the end, 4ft of water at the bottom.

An impossible passage comes in above our head. The water is being held back by a choke and with the clearing of this we will be away.





11th Feb 1962.

Milliam Cove.

Took a small party through Milliam Cove. The rest of the party went to Balch Cove.

25th Feb 1962.

Balch Cove.

A fire trap down this system to retrieve the MNRK magnetos used to enter the Mangrove Series.

1) Ron Teague tells of another Area to be magnetized in the Muddy Passage leading towards the swamps.

Went over to Atterborough - the barrel has been crushed - lots of work to do.

4th March 1962.

Atterborough Swallet.

A longer trench was dug and barrel placed back in - this time 2 feet lower blocking the way on. This can be dug out easily.

10th March 1962.

Hydrology of Berrington Cumb.

E.K. Trakman.

- a) Mining had taken place adjacent to Ber Swallet.
- b) Likely rising from Hunters Brook (Reeds Warren) in Sayer Lane (Upper hangford).
- c) Goulthorpe, E. Twin & Sidcot appear to feed hangford Rising.
- d) Arclines was once a resurgence as is proved by scallop markings.
- e) Rickford Rising appears to have the main catchment from Ellick Farm area.
- f) Plumleys Den has a known depth of 150 ft.
- g) Formation of the embankment due to surface water - proved by gravel found up to 12 ft deep on lower moor below - found at Rickford & Dolebury Cumb.

Hydrology E.K.T.

Submerged channels.

There are of the Aron and Severn estuaries often 100 ft below the modern channel. Early Pleistocene (at end of Pliocene) in date. At this time the land was much higher relative to the sea.

Goatchurch and Sidelcat.

On same bed rock. Both are phreatic with rock crevices. Both are developed mainly on a bedding plane.

Trot's Cracks.

Foxes Hole (hollow chamber)

} Fill is special type of fine silt.

Foxes Hole.

Phreatic. (hollow entrance blasted by Boyd Dawkins.

Avelines Hole.

The fill of this cave is a fine silt identical with modern flood silt at Goughs Cave (Cheddar). Takes small stream down left hand side of entrance during wet weather.

Plumbays Hole.

used to take a small stream

Possible water link is Avelines - Plumbays - Rickford.

11th March 1962.

Atterbury Swallet.

Entry into the bedding plane was nearly accomplished but way in still blocked by small amount of rubble. Very cold.

17th March 1962.

Caves of Slovenia.

Daniel Willis.

A very good, well illustrated lecture.

26th / 25th March 1962.

Mines etc in the Forest of Dean.

1) Highgrove Pit. 572034.

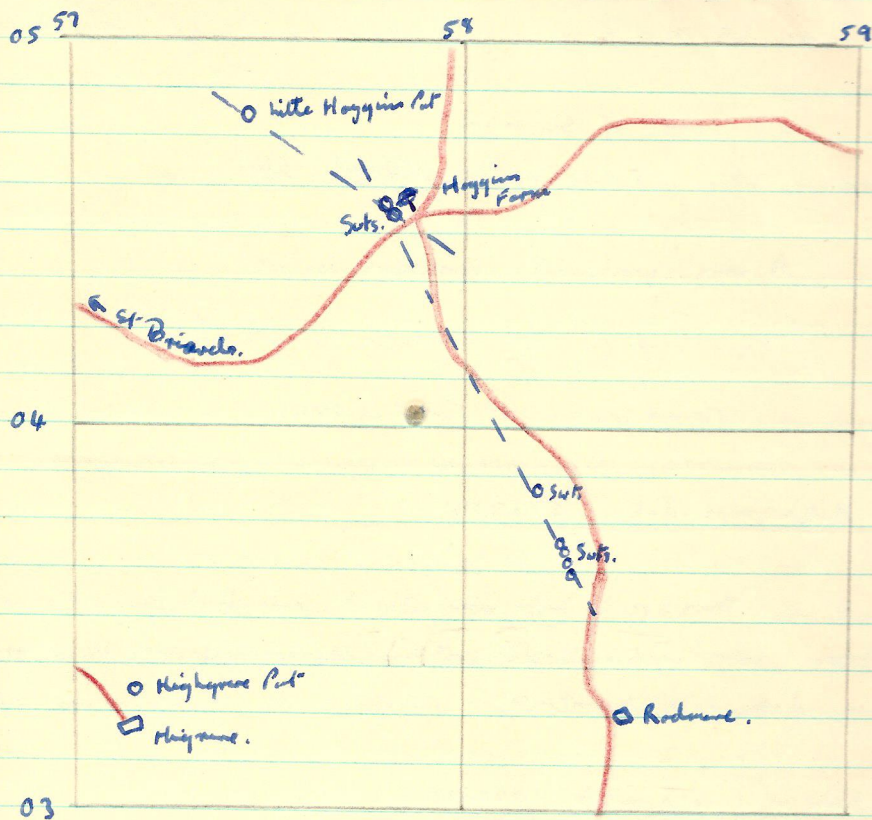
This pit hole, now closed, once had an entrance pitch of 20 feet and a stream was met at the bottom. Owners referred to it as The Pit. closed as it was a danger to livestock.

2) line of f. w. swallets. 583077.

All four are approx 20 ft deep by 30-40 ft deep. No outcrop signs in or around these swallets and the surface drainage even in wet weather can only be small. Advanced state of formation. Soil seems to be deeper than elsewhere - very few outcrops.

3) Swallet. 582038.

30' deep and 50' wide in a perfectly flat field. Small stream feeds swallet and this comes from an outcrop of l/stone 10' down from surface on SW slope.



1" OS sheet 155.

4). 2 Swallows at Higgins Farm. 577046

Just off farmyard. Both have encircled and active, the upper of the two has a pond dammed above it.

5). Spring behind Wyadham Arms, Clewwell. 571061

This spring has never dried up. Always used for drinking locally but has now been condemned by local council. The water is supposed to come from St. Dunstons.

6). Exposure of limestone. 576081.

In village of Clewwell are several iron mines. The largest was at above N&R but is now filled in. Limestone dips 20° NE.

7). Mine 1. 577083.

In village of Clewwell on the Galeford Road, length 160 ft.

- Many Rich Marks on walls.
- Several Trial off-shoots.
- Stal formations up to 3-4" long.

8). Mine 2. 577083.

As above. length approx 1,200 ft. Many stal formations.

9) Mine 3 577083.

As above. length over 2,000 ft. Ditto.

GH. ♀ 897 GLOS.

See MNRG Species Group Rep. No 2 Feb 1963.

(14 FEB 1936)

CAPT. HODGKINSON'S CANADIAN CAVE.

WONDERFUL STALACTITE FORMATIONS.

Playground For Ottawa.

Capt. G. W. Hodgkinson, M.C., managing director of Wookey Hole Caves, Ltd., recently spent several months in Canada where he has opened up a wonderful cavern in the Laurentian Mountains.

This week-end Capt. Hodgkinson is returning to Canada to complete the arrangements for making this beautiful estate, which is 35 minutes' from Ottawa, a great natural playground for that town, and the following description of the scene of his activities will, no doubt, be of interest to our readers.

The Armida Cave is situated in the Gatineau district of the Laurentian Highlands which is part of an ancient belt of mountains estimated by geologists to have been formed more than a billion years ago. The formations composing these ancient mountains are among the oldest of the world, rocks of similar age occurring only in the highlands of Scotland, parts of Scandinavia and a few scattered localities in other parts of the world.

The Cave itself is in crystalline limestone or marble and was formed perhaps a million years ago by a prehistoric river which wore away the limestone little by little for unnumbered years until at last the spectacular caverns that one sees to-day were formed. This river probably ceased to flow at the time of the Glacial Period when the great Glacier which is responsible for the configuration of the cliff immediately above and below the Cave came into being and carved out a great basin now occupied in part by Lake Armida.

The Cave contains many beautiful stalactite

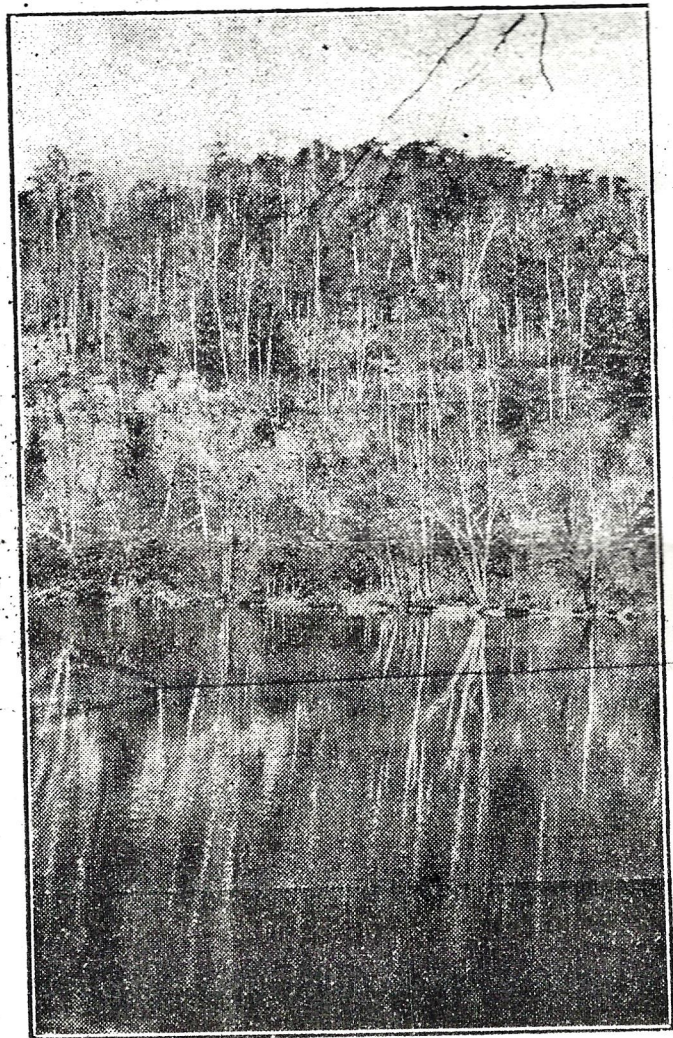
Many of these isolated rock masses contain various minerals such as pyrite, graphite, feldspar and quartz. Ochre which has been brought from above in solution, is deposited with the limestone to form stalactites of varied colours.

"THE CATHEDRAL."

The chamber known as the cathedral is a great crevice 60 feet in height and a glorious example of stalactite beauty containing apart from curtain and mural formations, some delightful examples of pendant stalactites. It is in great contrast to the entrance hall, the roof of which is dry and consequently devoid of formation, but it is of great interest. The water-worn condition of the walls and roof indicates clearly the manner in which the Caves were formed.

The second chamber contains both drapery and mural stalactites of entrancing beauty and the colours introduced by the various minerals are of different and delicate hues, the yellow of the ochre, blending with the brown of the iron and contrasting strongly with the dead white of the marble walls.

From this point the Cave falls in a vertical shaft for more than 40 feet and access to the lower chambers, which are almost at lake level can only be obtained by means of a wooden stairway; they fully justify the descent, however, for they are of striking beauty and varied form. The subterranean pool looms mysterious beyond its guarding arch and by its rise and fall in sympathy with the lake waters de-



Lake Armida from the Cave Mouth.

formations and curtains which are still "alive" for they are increasing in length and thickness as water bearing lime in solution evaporates and deposits its lime content in passing.

The predominant formation in Armida Park is the crystalline limestone, but other rocks such as granite and quartzite can be seen embedded in the roof and walls of the Cave. The limestone being softer than the other rocks has been worn away by the action of the water leaving the included masses pendant or erect.

These masses in their isolation take on successively varied and "weirdish" forms as one proceeds through the Cave. The inclusions of granite and other igneous rocks were injected into the limestone during the process of mountain building when, owing to the immense upheaval of the earth's crust, the soft limestone was subjected to extreme contortion. As the surface folds were pushed upward molten granite was thrust into them along fractures to form "dykes" which, because of their brittle character, compared with the soft limestone, were broken into isolated masses as the deformation continued. The finest example of this is at the lowest level where a huge slab more than two tons in weight depends in the form of an inverted table from the limestone roof.

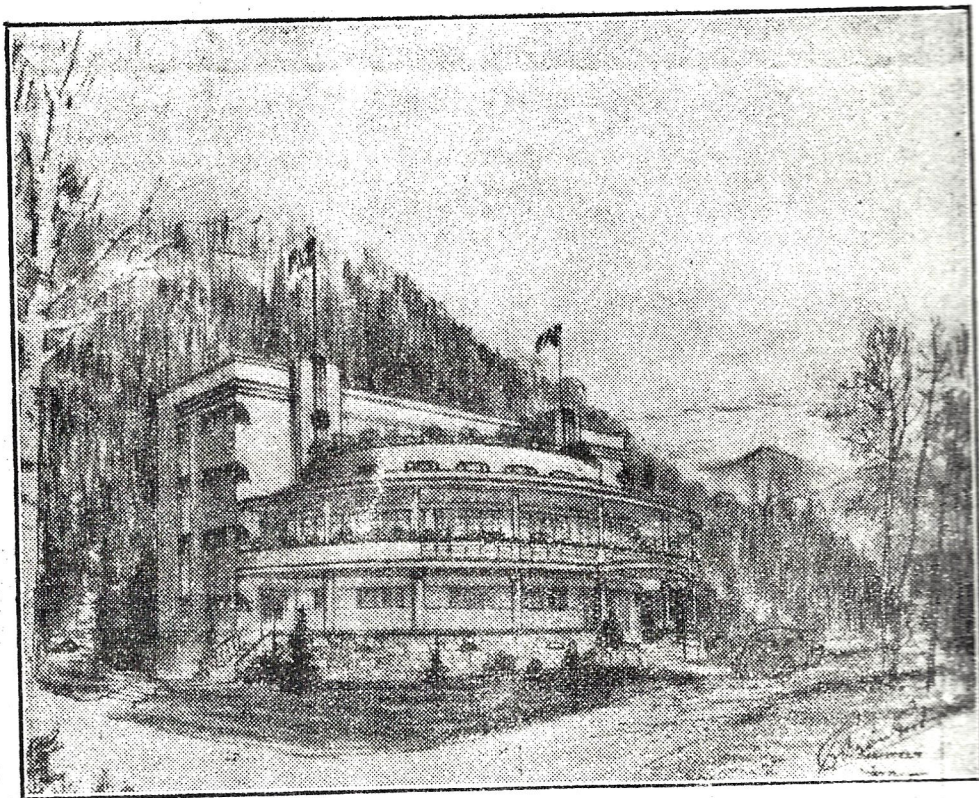
notes the lowest level of this most interesting cave.

The lighting system has been entirely remodelled and indirect floodlighting introduced which displays the beautiful stalactite formations to their best advantage and searching out the extreme crevices of the roof which have never before been seen.

NATURAL SWIMMING POOL.

Lake Armida, immediately below the Cave mouth, is set like a jewel in the folds of the surrounding hills and the whole neighbourhood is one of entrancing beauty abounding with lakes of all descriptions and sizes, most of which provide excellent fishing. Armida is a deep lake perfect for swimming, so that high diving, springboards and changing rooms have been erected for the convenience of those fond of aquatic sports.

A delightful restaurant of an extremely original design which nevertheless harmonises with the lovely woodlands surrounding it, has been built above and overlooking the lake with every convenience installed which modern science has devised to provide the best of lunches, teas, dinners and suppers for visitors, while a further attraction is a dance floor in the Moonlight Room, unique in design and



The Cave Restaurant.

WONDERLAND

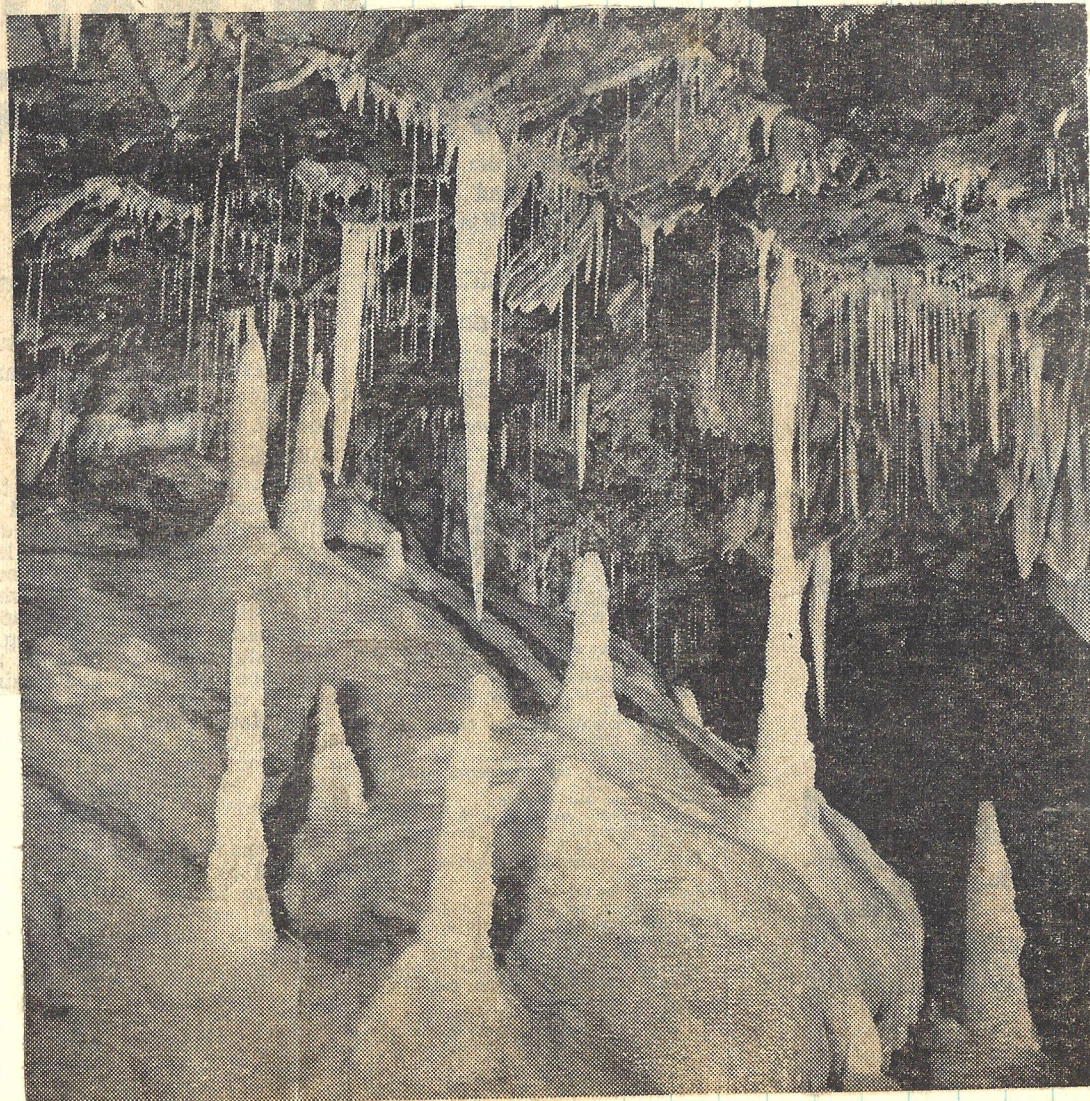
under the hills

The remarkable formations pictured here are part of a new subterranean wonderland recently found deep beneath the Mendip Hills.

Chance has opened up to explorers a fascinating and hitherto unknown cave system, already regarded as one of the finest in an area famous for caves and with further recesses waiting to be probed.

Because of difficulties of access, the public are never likely to be able to visit these caverns. But the Evening Post has obtained exclusive rights to bring them to readers in word and picture.

The story of how a reporter went down into the caves and what he found and more pictures appear on pages 8 and 9. And there will be more in tomorrow's Evening Post.



April 11th 1962.



● FORMATIONS reflecting in the water in Pool Chamber.

World beneath the Mendips

At midnight I crawled, cold, mud-spattered, soaked and tired from the depths of the earth into the rain and sleet of a filthy Mendip night.

I had just become the first journalist in the world to explore half-a-mile of fantastic caves, until recently hidden from men for the whole of their nearly three hundred million years existence.

The caves were unearthed by blasting operations in a cliff face quarry in the Shepton Mallet area of the Eastern Mendips.

Quarry experts called in a group of West-Country caving enthusiasts and the result has been the discovery of one of the most fantastic cluster of caves yet found in the Mendips.

Filled with mineral pearls, crystals, chemical formations and cascades, they rank as a most spectacular find of their size in the Mendips.

So far, the caves have been explored to a distance of 2,000 feet and a depth of 140 feet. With side passages and underground rivers still untouched, the potentialities are tremendous.

Novices

It was into these depths and the unexpected hazards of cave exploration that Buddy Powell and I went, as complete novices.

But we were not the only novices. There was a third, former London model, 20-year-old Maxine Reve, a Persian traveller staying at Clifton, Bristol, who put on a miner's helmet, waterproof boiler-suit, and boots to make the trip "just for the fun of it."

Miss Reve asked to go down because she expected something like Cheddar caves. Her first two descents down 50 feet of bare rockface soon proved

to her how different these new caves were from a trippers' tour.

For, make no mistake, this is no place for inexperienced amateurs. Only fools set off alone on jaunts where one mistake can bring tragedy.

The entrance is a gaping hole, about 15 feet from the quarry cliff top. Immediately inside is a sharp 50 foot drop into a large entrance cavern, strewn with boulders. The descent is made by nylon rope, which entails gripping jutting pieces of rock with the feet and lowering yourself hand below hand down the rope.

First crystals

By the time you reach the bottom you wish you had never tried, and feel confident that nothing worse can follow.

But the cavers tell you, "Don't worry, you've seen nothing yet."

An erratic passage of awkward, jutting rock formations leads to another 25 foot cliff-face descent into the second chamber.

The temperature here is a steady 52 degrees Fahrenheit which exists throughout the caverns. Here the first crystal formations begin to appear.

The caves themselves have been created through millions of years by underground streams. Completely sealed off from the outer world, they have never before been entered by men or animals.

The second cavern leads into a passage, where still water has formed attractive pools over the cave floor.

Another difficult part follows. You inch along another

passage by pressing your back against one side, and feet against the other.

'Letter-box'

After easing on your stomach through a "letter box squeeze" you are covered in water and milk-chocolate brown mud.

The next passage has water up to knee depth. It squelches into my boots, shrinks my socks, and soaks my jeans up to the knee joints.

Miss Reve, safely encased in waterproofs, exclaims: "What fun!"

This wet tunnel leads into a third cavern, where the upward pointing stalagmite comes into its own.

To the left is the entrance to a muddy unexplored underground river. Its source is so far unknown.

Now the wonderful formations, created since the dawn of time by chemicals carried in falling drops of water, become more fantastic.

Giant stalactites hang from the roof. Thick stalagmites point upward like great columns of ice, so strong you could lower yourself over a precipice with a rope tied round one of them.

This Aladdin's cave is made even more fantastic by the helactites. Looking like tiny white icicles they defy the force of gravity, and grow sideways, in the shape of a cross, and even curve round like a staple back into the cave roof again. How these have been formed, no one yet knows for certain.

The most difficult ascent of all follows from the next cavern—already dubbed the Maypole Cave, because the

explorers found the only way for them to continue was to erect a "Maypole" — joining sections of tubing together, holding it upright with numerous ropes and climbing into a passage high in the side of the cave by a rope ladder.

But one of the most frightening sections is to follow. It is the Corkscrew. You lower yourself down a spiral chimney of rock, the carbide lamp in your miner's safety helmet hardly showing where your feet must go.

And the result is worth the journey. For you emerge into the Crystal Chamber, with its brilliant array of stalagmite formations jutting in every direction.

The walls are patterned in crystal colours.

These are reds formed by ferrous oxides of the earth above; black from minute quantities of manganese in the limestone; green from copper salts; white from pure calcium carbonate.

This main cave leads to other caverns still being explored. We are now 2,000 feet from the entrance. Above us is 140 feet of limestone rock.

Hazardous

Coming back seems to take no time at all. It is not until you crawl out into the fine rain you realise you have been in the earth for five hours.

Perhaps, like me, you marvel at what you have seen, but would rather follow a less hazardous career.

Or maybe you wonder what does it achieve? And who are the men who want to wander about in muddy caves, anyway?

Beneath the Mendip Hills lies a honeycombed wonderland. Great caverns, smaller caves, subterranean pools, swallets, rock chimneys, and a great host of stalagmite and stalagmite formations making glistening patterns as light catches them, perhaps for the first time in millions of years.

Some of the caves, like those at Cheddar and Wookey Hole, are famous as tourist attractions. Others are known only to spelæologists, those enthusiastic explorers of the underground who often endure acute physical discomfort for the thrill of discovery.

And still the depths below Mendip yield new treasures. Recently, quarrying operations revealed a great new cave system, breathtaking in its majesty, and probably never before seen by the eyes of man.

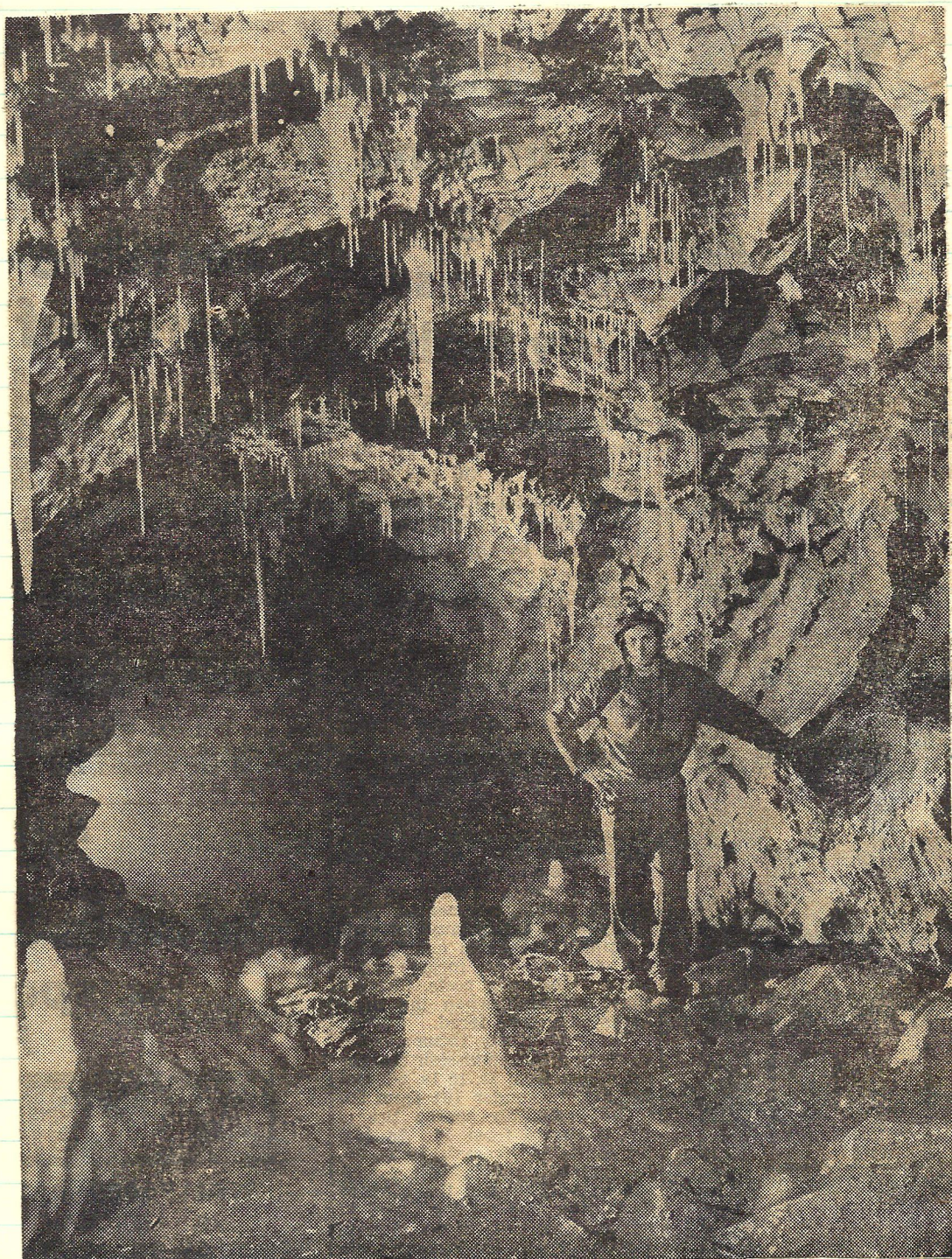
It is most unlikely that the public will ever see any part of them. But Evening Post photographer BUDDY POWELL and reporter COLIN CROSS are among the handful who have been privileged to explore them and on these pages they give, in word and pictures, some glimpses of the spectacle unfolded to them.



● STRAWS in Erratic Passage
(above) the quickest growing
of cave formations.

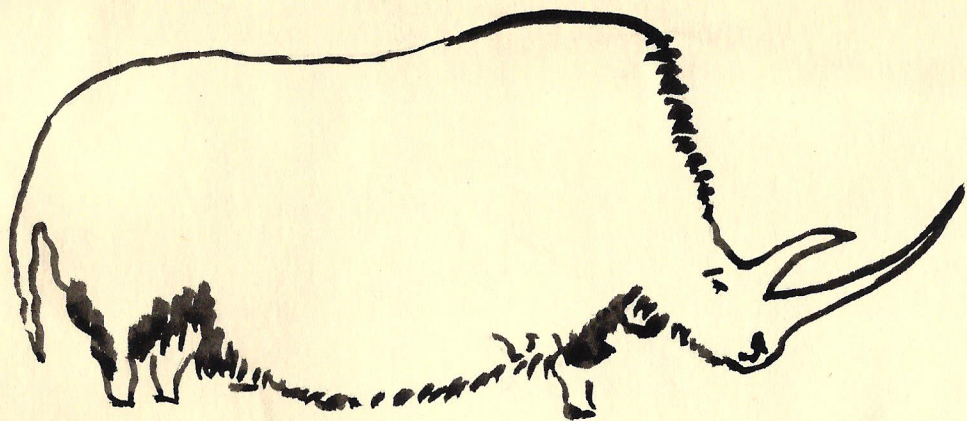


The president of the caving club, Max Unwin, lights a magnesium flare in Maypole Chamber. The other cavers are (left to right) Jack Hill (front, left) Evening Post reporter Colin Cross, Maxine Reve and John Eatough.



Caver John Eatough, in Erratic Passage.

Rouffignac



Breuil Gallery. The Mother

'Dubois' Rhinoceros.



Breuil Gallery. Last Mammoth of
the Great Frieze.

May 6th 1962.

Collins Hill Cave.

Dug a trial trench through the length of the cave for archaeological excavation. Finds of bones, medieval pottery (3 small fragments) Old lead buttons - parts of clay pipe.

May 13th 1962.

Stoke home.

To ramp and back. Looked at a new cave in Stoke home Quarry. Entrance 15 up face leads to a very shallow chamber - many formations. 15 ft of passage terminates in clay fill.

looked at Vincent Scabbet which was flooded.

May 20th 1962.

August Hole.

With EDCG. August & Long wood. My first trip using Christmas Ground. back with Ray which were quite keen.

June 3rd 1962.

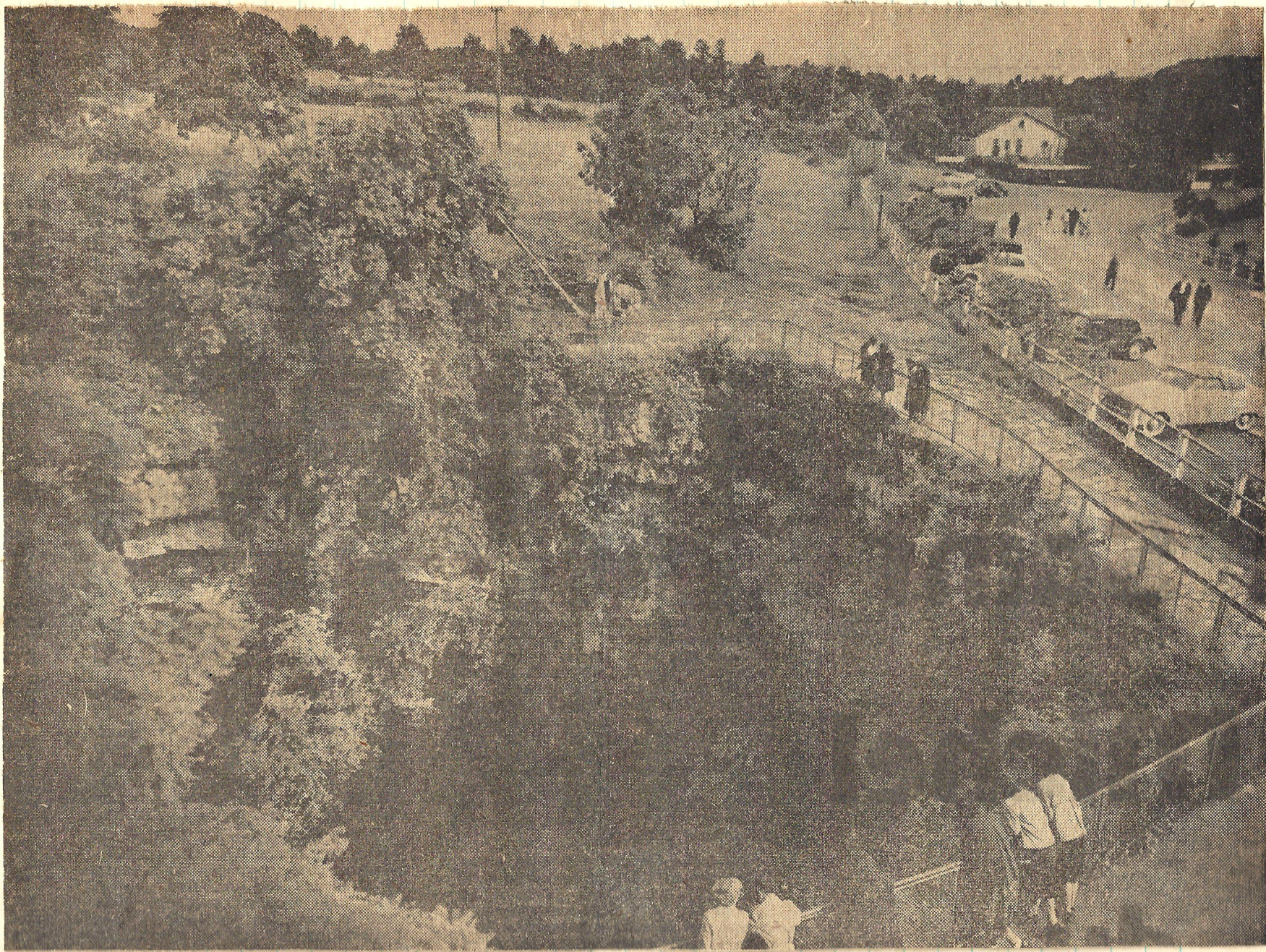
Swildens.

Ray & I did a full upper series trip & then went to meet the others at the top of Hunter Hole. We then went for a couple hours clearing up work at Attborough Scabbet.

June 11th 1962.

General.

Phil Rensford & went to Withybrook, Watship, Little London (short morning later) and Pallinmore (Fred has been digging here - there is in fact EVIDENCE of this).



La quête dangereuse du Padirac inconnu

Cinq mille visiteurs chaque jour se donnent
le frisson de découvrir le gouffre... mais
vingt-trois hommes seulement diront
ce soir s'ils ont pu percer le mystère
de la rivière souterraine

*
SATAN frappa du pied et le
gouffre s'ouvrit. « Sauter »,
dit-il à saint Pierre.
(Photo Cinéaphot, Toulouse.)

26 Aug 1962

CET APRES-MIDI, cette nuit peut-être, dix-huit hommes, couverts de glaise, la barbe vieille de dix jours, les yeux gonflés de fatigue et pleins de paysages lunaires, faits de forêts de stalactites gigantesques et lumineuses, de canaux enserrés entre des roches transparentes, de « marmites géantes » et de cavernes profondes, inviolées depuis leur inconsciente création par la nature alors déchainée, troqueront au restaurant troglodyte du gouffre de Padirac les rations K et le thé boueux, menu quotidien de l'expédition, contre un repas gastronomique et le champagne des fins d'aventures.

Ils étaient vingt-trois au départ. Cinq sont remontés hier mais n'ont rien révélé de leur découverte. Ils laissent cette joie aux derniers.

Compagnons du silence et de la nuit, ces hommes, spéléologues et savants en renom, auront progressé à travers le dédale souterrain sans cesse coupé de siphons et aéré de salles immenses reliées entre elles par de minuscules châtieres.

Tantôt à pied, de la glaise jusqu'à mi-cuisse; tantôt à l'image des alpinistes, encordés, accrochés aux pans de murailles suintantes et visqueuses, parfois à bord des canots pneumatiques que, sans fin, il faut gonfler et dégonfler, charger avec la tonne de matériel emportée.

Hallucinante marche vers l'inconnu. Progression que l'on mène le plus avant possible, jusqu'au moment où n'importe où, au plus près, sur la rivière de boue, contre un rocher, debout, s'il n'y a pas la place de s'allonger, chacun oubliant l'humidité glaciale qui, depuis longtemps, traverse la combinaison étanche, ne pense plus, idée fixe, obsédante, qu'à dormir.

C'est ainsi que se déroulèrent depuis soixante ans plusieurs dizaines de ces aventures souterraines dirigées par les présidents successifs du Groupe spéléologique de France et de Paris, accompagnés dans leurs épopées de médecins intéressés par le comportement de l'organisme humain pendant un séjour prolongé dans les cavernes, de militaires étudiant les problèmes des transmissions radio sous terre, de savants effectuant des mesures d'ionisation et de composition de l'air. Chacun de ces voyages fantastiques, aux joies secrètes, devait permettre de percer davantage — jusqu'à 5 km. 200 — le secret de la fameuse rivière souterraine que chaque jour 5.000 touristes parcourent sur 800 mètres, mais dont il reste aujourd'hui à explorer jusqu'à la résurgence de la fontaine Saint-Georges, au bord du cirque de Montvalent, sans doute plus de 7.000 mètres.

Padirac : porte de l'enfer

A QUELQUES KILOMETRES du pèlerinage moyenâgeux de Rocamadour, le gouffre de Padirac, situé en plein causse, à ciel ouvert, profond de 75 mètres et large de 30, intriguait sans doute fort les paysans du Quercy, qui attribuèrent son existence à une colère du diable.

Celui-ci, disaient-ils, rencontrant saint Pierre qui, sur sa mule, allait paisiblement à la recherche d'âmes à

sauver, aurait frappé le sol du talon, faisant apparaître le gouffre. « Sauter de l'autre côté », dit-il à saint Pierre.

Sans hésiter, la monture du Grand Portier, se précipitant, aurait fait « un tel bond de l'autre côté de l'abîme que, dit-on, l'empreinte de ses sabots est encore visible sur une dalle penchée sur le gouffre.

Le diable, furieux de son échec, végagna les entrailles de la terre par le trou qu'il avait creusé et, depuis lors, le gouffre de Padirac passe pour donner accès au domaine de Satan.

Padirac, porte de l'Enfer, la légende ne devait pas impressionner, en 1839, le célèbre spéléologue Edouard Martel, qui, le gouffre exploré, découvrait un étroit orifice. 25 mètres plus bas, Martel se trouvait sur les berges de la rivière sans ciel. Un an plus tard, il organise la première grande expédition et alors qu'il avait poussé jusqu'à 1.500 mètres de l'entrée, il atteint cette fois le grand dôme, dont la voûte haute de 100 mètres domine un lac : le lac du Découragement », celui des derniers efforts.

Il a près de 100 mètres de longueur, écrit Martel; de longues et belles stalactites pendent de la voûte à 20 mètres de hauteur environ. Plus de gours, Dieu merci; un petit rétrécissement, puis un dernier lac de 60 mètres de longueur; au bout, une grève de sable, 10 mètres d'étroite galerie, abaissement de voûte, cul-de-sac complet, partout la muraille, serait-ce tout? Cherchons bien; pas un trou, pas une fente, pas une fissure, c'est le fond, Padirac est fini.

En 1900, Martel avait découvert Padirac; restait à le faire connaître au monde.

Le sort du gouffre sur la banquette d'un fiacre

CHAPEAU MELON, redingote et canne, sous le bras, une serviette contenant une copieuse documentation, le spéléologue partit pour Paris. Sans doute, dans le fiacre qui le conduisait de visite en proposition et en échec, rêvait-il encore à son extraordinaire monde souterrain. Toujours est-il qu'il oublia sur la banquette du fiacre ses feuilles, ses plans et ses dessins. Satan voulut-il l'aider et attirer sur lui les regards du siècle pour en ricaner peut-être dans un coin de la grotte? Cela serait peut-être une explication valable au hasard inouï qui fit, quelques instants plus tard, emprunter le même attelage au président d'une importante société de publicité. Le lendemain, il frappait chez Martel. Aux dernières lueurs du XXe siècle on inaugurerait les premiers aménagements touristiques, du lieu devenu célèbre.

Trente ans plus tard l'aventure recommençait

« **PAS UN TROU**, pas une fente, c'est le fond. Padirac est fini », avait écrit Martel en 1839. Six mois plus tard, au cours d'un raid de vingt-sept heures, il découvrait lui-même un passage, gagnait 250 mètres naviguait jusqu'à un rétrécissement de la galerie et s'arrêtait à un étonnement qui laissait couler l'eau par

un « orifice bas, à peine large de 60 centimètres, haut de 20 centimètres, et que des pointes stalagmitiques achevaient de rendre impraticable ».

Pour trente-sept ans, c'en était fini des explorations, le conseil d'administration de la Société ayant lui-même interdit toute nouvelle reconnaissance au-delà du lac des Grands-Gours.

C'est à M. de Lavaur que, trois ans avant les hostilités, M. W. Beamish, actuel président du gouffre, fit appel

pour repartir à la découverte de l'étrange univers. Le secrétaire général du Comité national de spéléologie a, en vingt ans, pendant huit cents heures, parcouru les galeries qu'à la surface se disputent le Causse et la Limargue. Président du Spéléo-Club de Paris, président de la Société de France de spéléologie, participèrent à ces passionnantes excursions, ignorées d'un public toujours plus nombreux.

Ensemble, ils découvrent, au cours de séjours sans cesse plus longs, le Padirac inconnu : celui des luttes, celui du merveilleux naturel qui surgit à chaque anfractuosité, dans le mince rayon de la lampe à acétylène. Le Padirac des mirages, des prairies et des marionnettes qui hantent, le soir, les campeurs assis sur l'argile détrempée; des nausées, des vertiges, de la fatigue, du canot qui se retourne dans l'eau profonde, du matériel indispensable, échelles et cordages, qu'il faut remorquer.

Quatorze expéditions maitresses, vingt peut-être ou trente pour atteindre, à 5.200 mètres du restaurant troglodyte, le chaos Martel et la salle Beamish, immenses cavernes où viennent se conjuguer les branches d'un inextricable labyrinthe de galeries et de cascades; pour atteindre une paysage de cataclysmes, jonché d'énormes rochers qui semblent s'être détachés de la voûte et qui menacent de rouler quand les hommes s'y agrippent. Un peu plus loin, sur la rivière sans fin, des formations calcaires font penser à des fleurs blanchâtres qu'il faudra couper pour permettre le passage d'une embarcation. Enfin, au seuil de l'inconnu, surgit « sur un promontoire une forêt de stalagmites de toutes tailles, parfaitement blanches, qui s'élancent à plusieurs mètres de hauteur, comme pour donner la main aux stalactites et aux draperies qui pendent de la voûte ».

Au-delà, c'est l'inconnu, la barrière de l'avenir, et cette dernière randonnée a duré quatre jours et quatre nuits.

Fièvre à Padirac où l'on attend ce soir le retour de la plus importante expédition jamais conçue

CE SOIR, à Padirac, où la presse, la radio et la télévision attendent le retour de l'expédition 1962, la plus importante jamais conçue, on saura peut-être ce qu'au-delà de la Sainte-Chapelle, la nature a créé. Quoi de plus extraordinaire encore, de plus grandiose, quelle nouvelle cathédrale peuplée d'orgues gigantesques, quel nouveau lac découvert au prix d'une semaine entière de marches par ces spéléologues dont la race seule sera, sans doute, un jour invitée à voir? Quels enseignements pour les savants!

M. Max Couderc, président du Spéléo-Club de Paris; le professeur Jèze; MM. Cavalier, président du Spéléo-Club de France et directeur du Muséum d'histoire naturelle de Montauban; Philippe Renaud, attaché au Laboratoire de la Recherche scientifique de Moulis; Saumande, docteur en pharmacie, chargé des tests physiologiques; Puech-Maurel, président du Spéléo-Club de Saint-Céré; certains membres de celui de Cahors; vingt-trois hommes en tout, privés, depuis dimanche, de tout contact avec le monde entier, qui, ce soir, retrouveront au lac des Grands-Gours, la vraie lumière. Celle qui aveugle et fait mal quand, pendant d'interminables heures, on a cherché dans le Monde du Silence et de la Nuit, dans un décor fantasmagorique... le passage.

Colette Malvy.



★ **I**L FAUT avoir été dans cette partie de Padirac que nous venons de franchir pour se rendre compte de l'Enfer que cette glaise représente. Elle sue de partout, englue tout. Malgré les chiffons, malgré les doubles enveloppes de caoutchouc, l'argile envahit tout et en fin de compte, la langue, suprême ressource, nettoie les rations avant qu'on les absorbe, comme elle dégage le verre de montre pour lire l'heure ou la valve du bateau qu'il faut regonfler.

(Expédition 1948. Guy de Lavaur, secrétaire général du Comité national de spéléologie.)

(Photo Ertaud.)

Succès final des expéditions

1^{er} Sept 1962.

spéléologiques 1962

- **PADIRAC : Le gouffre a livré tous ses secrets**
- **QUÈBE DE COTCHE : De nouvelles galeries sont découvertes**
- **CEZY-EAUX-CHAUDES : Les eaux sont plus acides que le vinaigre**

MAX COUDERC et l'équipe de pointe de la plus grande expédition jamais entreprise pour percer le mystère de la rivière souterraine du gouffre de Padirac sont revenus hier, à 15 heures, au lac des Grands-Gours, chaque jour visité par cinq mille touristes.

Fatigués, les traits tirés, enrobés de glaise, mais un grand sourire aux lèvres, les spéléologues criaient leur sensationnel exploit : les galeries souterraines de Padirac, qui pendant plus de soixante-dix ans avaient refusé de livrer leurs secrets, venaient de s'ouvrir pour eux sur 3 km 400 d'inconnu.

L'émotion passée, on devait apprendre — par cent mètres de fond et avant même que les hommes aient regagné la lumière naturelle tant souhaitée — qu'après avoir marché lundi dernier pendant dix-sept heures d'affilée, mardi pendant neuf, ils avaient installé, photographes, scientifiques et spéléologues, leur camp de base à 5 km 800 de l'entrée du gouffre.

Le lendemain, après avoir cherché un passage, Max Couderc découvrait une galerie à l'intérieur de laquelle, seize heures durant, tantôt à pied, tantôt à bord des canots pneumatiques, ils devaient progresser pour, finalement, se heurter à un gigantesque siphon de quinze mètres de large, autant de haut, brasant des milliers de mètres cubes d'eau. Barrière sans doute à jamais impénétrable.

UN EXPLOIT REMARQUABLE

« On ne pouvait espérer mieux de cette expédition. L'exploration de Padirac est maintenant achevée, car il serait du domaine de la folie de vouloir, à trois jours de marche, dans la glaise aspirante, tenter le passage en scaphandre du siphon que nous avons rencontré », devait nous déclarer Max Couderc, président du Spéleo-Club de Paris.

(LIRE LA SUITE EN DERNIÈRE PAGE.)

Les expéditions spéléologiques prennent fin

(Suite de la première page.)

Quant à M. de Lavour, vice-président du Comité national de spéléologie, qui, pendant les vingt dernières années chemina huit cents heures à la recherche de l'inconnu dans les galeries souterraines de Padirac, en connaisseur, il qualifiait l'exploit accompli de remarquable.

D'ailleurs, les spéléologues avaient tenu à donner le nom de M. de Lavour à la partie de la rivière souterraine de Padirac qu'ils venaient de découvrir.

Pour eux, mission accomplie. La parole est maintenant aux scientifiques qui ont ramené de nombreux échantillons de terre et de roche au docteur Saumandes, chargé des tests physiologiques et de l'étude du comportement de l'homme pendant un long séjour de vie souterraine active. Lui aussi était, hier, au rendez-vous de Padirac.

Il nous a affirmé l'importance de l'obscurité, du silence et de l'humidité sur le comportement de l'homme dont l'étude fut l'un des mobiles de cette sensationnelle expédition.

L'EXPEDITION 1962 à la Quête de Cotche est terminée. Les spéléologues périgourdins et charentais achèvent de déménager le matériel qu'ils ont descendu samedi dans la vallée.

Le bilan de ces huit derniers jours de recherches est positif. Après avoir échoué dans la descente du puits inconnu, sous la grande cascade, les spéléologues ont tourné leurs efforts vers la grande salle en amont. Là, une équipe de pointe comprenant Bordin (Périgueux), le docteur Lagarde (Clermont-Ferrand) et le jeune Christian Lalande (Orthez) a trouvé une autre cascade qu'elle a pu remonter grâce à 8 mètres de mâts. Au-delà, une série de galeries très cahotiques, longues de 200 mètres, s'élevait à 102 mètres au-dessus de l'entrée. A moitié chemin se trouve un puits de 22 mètres. Galeries et puits continuent, tout comme le puits inconnu de la cote — 162. Il y a donc de beaux jours en perspective pour l'expédition d'août 1963, mais il est certain que pour réussir, celle-ci devra disposer de moyens exceptionnels.

L'EXPEDITION des spéléologues bordelais et palois à Cézy-Eaux-Chaudes est elle aussi terminée.

L'expédition proprement dite avait débuté par la coloration du torrent hypogé. Cette coloration

à la fluorescine avait pour but de vérifier l'hypothèse émise par les spéléologues sur la percée hydrologique reliant le gouffre Cézy (1.700 mètres) à la grotte des Eaux-Chaudes (900 mètres).

Cette expérience a pleinement réussi. Les vingt kilos de colorant déversés dans le torrent souterrain sont ressortis soixante heures plus tard, à la résurgence des Eaux-Chaudes.

Ce résultat acquis, l'exploration du réseau supérieur fut poursuivie en vue de rejoindre la trente-quatrième cascade, point extrême des explorations menées par l'aval.

De nouvelles galeries aux dimensions importantes ont été découvertes, mais la jonction n'a pu être réalisée. Toutefois une petite galerie supérieure a permis, après une longue et pénible désobstruction de progresser au-delà du troisième siphon.

D'intéressantes observations ont été faites sur les eaux. Celles-ci d'une température de 4 à 6 degrés, se révèlent plus acides que du vinaigre!

Results of the 1962 Expedition.

1). Pachira.

Mose Condore and his team have ended the greatest expedition ever undertaken to solve the mystery of the underground river of Pachira. They returned today at 3 p.m. to the great Gout Lake which is visited each day by 5,000 tourists.

Luckily but happy they gave the news of their means and sensational discoveries. News of 3.4 Km of new galleries never visited by man before.

But still a long way from the surface, and being tired they are now quiet and ready to move off to the surface. They set out last Monday and after 17 hrs heavy going and 9 hrs on Tuesday they installed base camp at 5.8 Km from the cave entrance and took photos for scientific and apologetic records.

The next day Mose Condore found a new gallery which took 6 hrs to explore. On foot and at times in dingies they progressed forward until they were halted by a massive system 15 meters wide & 15 meters deep taking thousands of cubic meters of water. This is without doubt the final barrier.

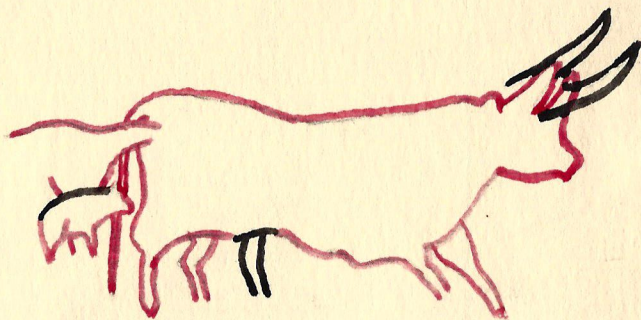
'We could not have hoped for more, the exploration was arduous & wonderful. It would be rather much to wish for more. With those drops of mud & diving gear to the system it is too much.' We are obliged to give a great cheer for Mose Condore, president of the Spanish Club of Paris.

It is with respect to M. de Lavau, vice president of the National Committee of Speleology that this is said for he has visited Pachira for the last 20 years looking for new galleries. He is qualified to be the judge of this great means. The caves have held to their promise by naming the new gallery after M. de Lavau.

Now to the scientists for whom many specimens have been brought back. To Dr. Saumender who is working on physiological tests to study the behavior of men after a long active stay underground. He assured us of the effects of this eternal gloom and obscure silence and high humidity on the behavior of men. He is to study the effects upon one of the team members.



Length. 8fr.



Length 7ft. 8ins.

Red Bovoids in the Great Hall of Bulls.

Lascaux

2). Quebe de Catche.

The 1962 Expedition to Quebe de Catche has now finished, the little used in the cave was brought up and taken down to the valley on Saturday.

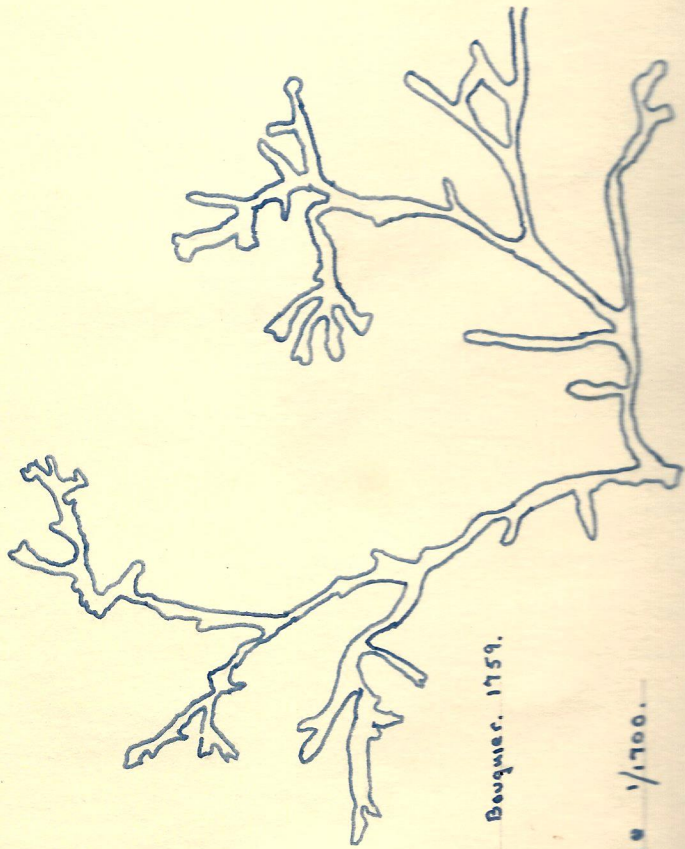
The results of the last eight days of exploration have given a positive result. After finding to descend the unexplored shaft under the great cascade, the cavers turned their efforts towards the great Hall upstream.

There, a strong team made up of Bouchin (Parisienne), Dehagrade (Clement - Faurand) and young Christian Haudou (Orchys) found another cascade which they were able to descend using 8 meters of megaputer. Beyond this was a series of very flattened galleries 200 meters long and 102 meters below the cave entrance. Approx half-way along this series they found a shaft 22 meters deep. This series is only partly explored.

It looks as though with great financial means a 1963 expedition would be a great success.

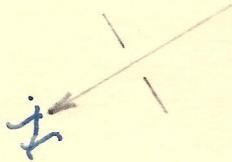
NB See British Caver Vol. 36. 1962/3.

ROUFFIGNAC.



Gabriel Bouquier. 1759.

Scale 1/1700.



Entrance.

3). Cazy - Eaux - chaudes.

The speleological expedition of caves from the Bordeaux area to Cazy - Eaux - chaudes has also concluded. The first step taken was to colour the streams with fluorescein for the purpose of verifying the hypothesis of the caves on the hydrological vista of the caves:-

Cazy Cave . . . 1,700 meters.

Eaux Chaudes . . . 900 meters (Cave of the Warm Water).

It was thought that the same torrent flowed through these caves. The experiment succeeded after 20 Kilos of fluorescein had been poured into the subterranean torrent and had reappeared 60 hours later at the resurgence of Eaux chaudes.

This result required, the exploration of the high level series could now proceed. It was hoped to make a link with the 34th Cascade, the old extreme point of exploration. Large new galleries were found but the connection was not made. However a tight high level gallery, after much clearing gave access to passages beyond the third system.

Some interesting observations have been made of the water. Those of a temperature of $4-6^{\circ}\text{C}$ where they were were much warmer than in the air.

NTB See Brit. Caves Vol 36 1962/3.

Le Casque du Morbore.

See HNRC Nitr
EDCG casing

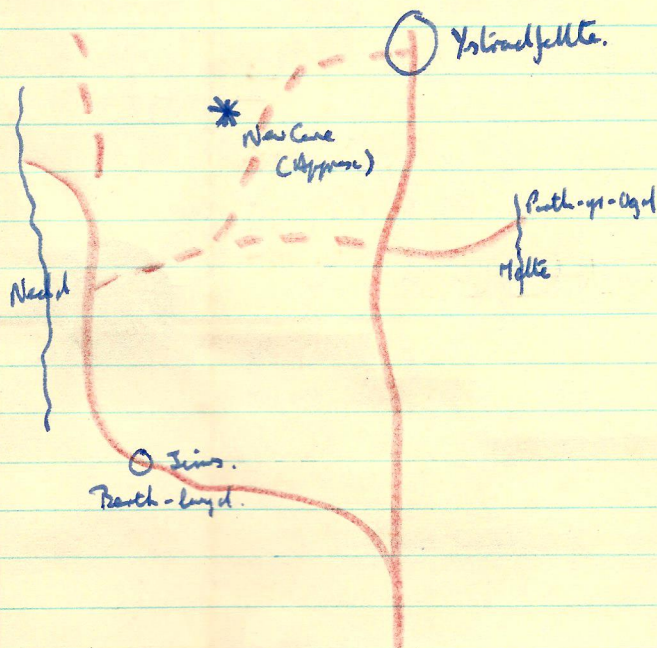
1st - 8th Sept 1962.

South Wales.

Julian Fortnum, Mike Chalder, Self.

At Trims - a week of rain.

Spent most of the time on the Cant above Trims. Noticed a new cave after news from Eirian Thomas. See sketch map below. 15 ft entrance shaft into steep chamber down to about 100 ft below surface. Several passages going off. Length approx 300-400 ft.



Searched the open Wadd below the dry valley & found one of the above caves spoken of by Dave Jenkins (SWCC) and had a look at Porth Ddu. A large static mass.

Died White body - Porth-y-Ogof.

Spent two days on the Heptak & Julian found the rinds which were deep at the New Inn hole in about.

Died Bridge Cave, Porth-y-Rhydd, Bodgys, Ogof-y-Defydd New & others nearby.

They removed skeletons on the Cant and searched Ceston Plas-y-Darren.

Hope to survey next year.



THE FALLS. GLYN NEATH.

23rd Sept 1962.

G.B. Cave.

Large party is split up into groups for different work down. Ray Perry tried to go through the Ooze but it was flooded so he did Davis & Elbow Route. 4 took beginners down easy way and to Upper Sand Dug.

NTB

Weekend 15/16th Sept STake II was drilled. It is 25 ft long but this may be lowered by digging. Length of passage found approx 1000 ft. Many wide chambers but not entered.

4th Oct. 1962.

Atthorough Swallet.

Due to unfavourable weather conditions the dig was gradually being generally muckled up - filled in shaft with boulders only and pulled down fencing and staked it up - also barbed wire.

Spent rest of the day at Green Ore Vespasian Arch. Dig.

14th Oct. 1962.

Hilliers Cave.

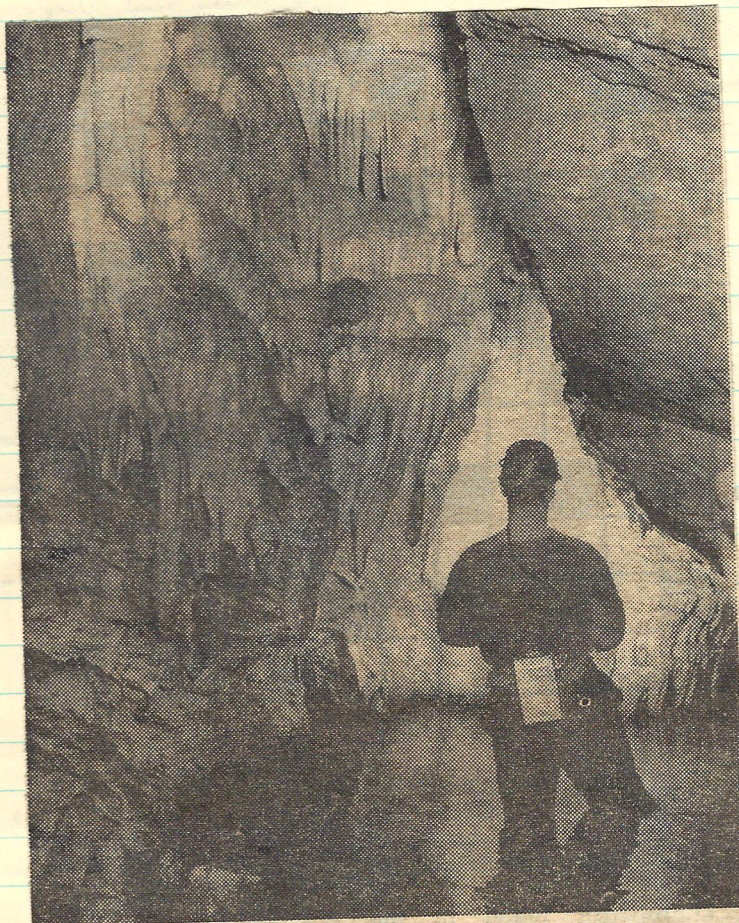
As far as Brenden Chamber and Hays & looked at the dig above the Mud Escalates. Ray P went through the left hand series in the mud.

Had another look at Fernhill.

21st Oct 1962.

St. Cuthberts Swallet.

After 6,000 miles approx Tuckson managed to get into Cuthberts. Trip was a good 'un, out of the way places - great interest - thanks to Brian Ellis. John Cullen had a bad knock in the face by a falling boulder in the entrance rift. Could have been worse.



"Down Below," by G. Robinson. A scene in Swildon's Hole,

INDEXED AS FAR AS HERE

WELLS NATURAL HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

WINTER SESSION 1962-3 (Wells Museum)

Meetings marked ★ are arranged by the Mendip Nature Research Committee for their members, but members of the parent society are welcome to attend.

Saturday, October 13, 5.30 Prehistoric Somerset
Mrs Dobson-Hinton, Litt.D., F.S.A.

★ Saturday, ~~October 21~~ 28, 7.30 Putting back the R in
the M.N.R.C. Mr D. A. Willis

Saturday, November 10, 5.30 The Lands of Glaston-
bury Abbey. Mr S. C. Morland, M.A., C.C.

Saturday, December 1, 5.30 Belgium : A Versatile
Neighbour. Miss K. M. Willcox, B.A.

★ Saturday, December 15, 7.30 The Carlsbad Cavern.
Mr H. W. H. Ashworth.

★ Saturday, January 12, 7.30 M.N.R.C. Annual General
Meeting (for members of that committee only.)

Thursday, January 31, 5.30 Annual General Meeting.
The Lord Bishop will preside.

★ Saturday, February 9, 7.30 Programme of Sound Films

Saturday, February 23, 5.30 Somerset Folk Songs
Mr G. P. Rye, F.L.S.

Saturday, March 16, 5.30 A Bird Watching Holiday
in Corsica. Mr J. A. McGeoch.

Saturday, April 6, 5.30 Bristol in the 1890's
Mr Reece Winstone.

★ Saturday, April 20, 7.30 Wandering in the Pyrenees
Mr H. Sealy.

Friends of members are admitted at a charge of 1/6.

R. D. REID,

Hon. Secretary.

University of Bristol, Spelaeological Society.
Lecture.

Monday Nov. 19th 1962. Geography Lecture Theatre 8.15 p.m.

"

Mr. F. Salt

"1962 British Expedition to the Gouffre Berger "

Guests welcome.

N.B. This lecture was never held!

Ranospit - Westbury Hill.

N&R 516 493.

In valley above Westbury - nr. Mendips close to the footpath and is a large rectangular depression with rocky sides.

Actively draining and is 25' long and 20' deep.

At bottom of the swallet is an impassable squeeze where the stream disappears. This could be a fair ding.

Bedding plane at the side could perhaps be followed.

27th Oct 1963.

Mendips Cave Rejoining.

MCR. AGM at Wells Museum. Elected as one of 14 members of the Executive Committee. Arose it with Mike Rennie.

3rd/4th Nov. 1963.

Ogof - Ffynnon - Dden.

P. Rymond, R. Deary, Self.

At Tims again. At O.F.D. 3pm, quite Dene Cons. Water $\frac{1}{2}$ ft higher than usual and stream passage was quite an effort. Did large amount of passage length including most of the del pot. Came out after 4 hrs via the Escape Route (high level traverses 40-60 ft above stream).

Ogof - y - Ci.

Only an average stream so did whole of cave in through lower wet mines - low wet counts - all in good suits. Then right to end of dry route and out upper Dry Entrance.

25th/26th Nov 1963.

Leant Lees. Water Dng.

With Brian Glennie & Phil Rymond cleared some of the rubble from the dng and dammed up the flow of water under St. Vats. Shaft to provide a good head of water for the next day.

Camped in L.L. Quarry.

Great Activity. R. Deary, R. Craig, D. Mitchell, Alan (MCC) and others above. Got head of water go and managed to clear the dng and could see and better hear a way on. Shaft dug to a depth of 20 ft. Also dug at the bottom of the miners trial (depth 25 ft).



YGS.28 CRAIG-Y-NOS, YSTRADGYNLAIS

Copyright
Frith's

2nd Dec 1962.

Holwell Cave.

A good trip to Holwell Cave. Many bats all rings for Tony Chubbins. Refills were his also. (See Mine Notes in back of this book).

15th Dec 1962.

Coolbad Cavern.

M.W.W. Ashworth.

Coolbad.

New Mexico.

Exceptionally well decorated. 10,000 in one chamber. Stylagmites. Dead stal yellow-white - no percolating water.

One/two may be active.

Many helictite in chamber which takes at least 1 hour to walk round.

One chamber is 1000' x 2000'

National Park.

Area. Parent Region, Coates etc.

Mammoth.

Kentucky.

150 miles of known passages.

All plotted & surveyed.

Not very well decorated.

No water on Stal. 1/2 may be active.

Much literature applied at both cave sites - mainly commercial advertising.

National Park.

Area. Sand & Woodland Region.

On a limestone ridge about 17 miles from nearest town. Many caves on ridge:-

Mammoth, Mammoth Ogysse, Horse, Diamond, Floyd Collins, Great Ogysse, etc.

Great Advertising is Skyline Green, Virginia.



Plan.

Holwell Cave.

lower level.

NGR $\frac{ST}{31}$ 21083400.

0 10 20 30 40 50 Feet.

N.

27th Dec. 1962.

THEY SPEND CHRISTMAS IN A CAVE The Subterraneans

FIVE-HOUR TREK...

THEN IT'S TIME

TO EAT CHICKEN

The rest of the country shivered while three Bristol men spent Christmas warm and cosy—in a cave below the Mendip hills.

Their Christmas dinner were three pre-cooked chickens warmed up on a primus stove after a five-hour trek through caverns and over rocks.
The trio are . . .

Raymond Deasy (19), of 34, Shaftesbury Avenue, Montpelier, Robert Craig (21), of 31, Cranbrook Road, Redland, and Philip Romford (21), of 71, Warncliffe Gardens, Whitechurch.

They returned to the cold icy world above ground last night.

Under there, they said today, the temperature was about 51 degrees fahrenheit. They were able to spend their holiday warm and cosy in little more than sweaters and slacks.

SUMP

They decided some time ago that they would like to spend Christmas making a meteorological survey of the chambers and taking photographs in the cave Stoke Lane Slocher near Stoke St. Michael.

Carrying a total of more than 1½ cwt., they had to dive a 2ft. sump to get into the cave.

"It was extremely cold in the water," said Raymond Deasy. "We had to be careful with our packs."

It took them five hours to make their destination, the Throne Room, where they pitched their tent and started on the Christmas dinner.

There was just one regret, said Raymond. No beer.

Holwell Cave.

Quentocks.

This little cave, the only one known on Quentocks is situated in a quarry not far from the Trevellon Inn at Mendidge, Somerset. The cave has been open since c 1800, found by labourers working in a limestone quarry & was later opened as a show cave.

The formations in the cave are unique as Andrew Crosser Chamber contains the only reported Anthracolites in the country. Unfortunately they have been badly damaged and blackened by smoke.

The formations in the Pretty Grotto are the only undamaged ones in the whole cave. They are particularly beautiful and it is hoped that they will be spared from damage.

The entrance to the Bung Hole Series is extremely tight and a 20' rope is useful. It is of little interest, consisting of small and muddy passages.

The geological structure of the cave is more akin to the phreatic / relational tubes of Devon caves rather than the trenching of the caves of Mendips.

The cave is amazingly compact, the whole 692 ft of passage being contained in 100' x 100' x 400'.

Permission to visit the cave must first be obtained from Mr. Porter of Great Holwell Farm.

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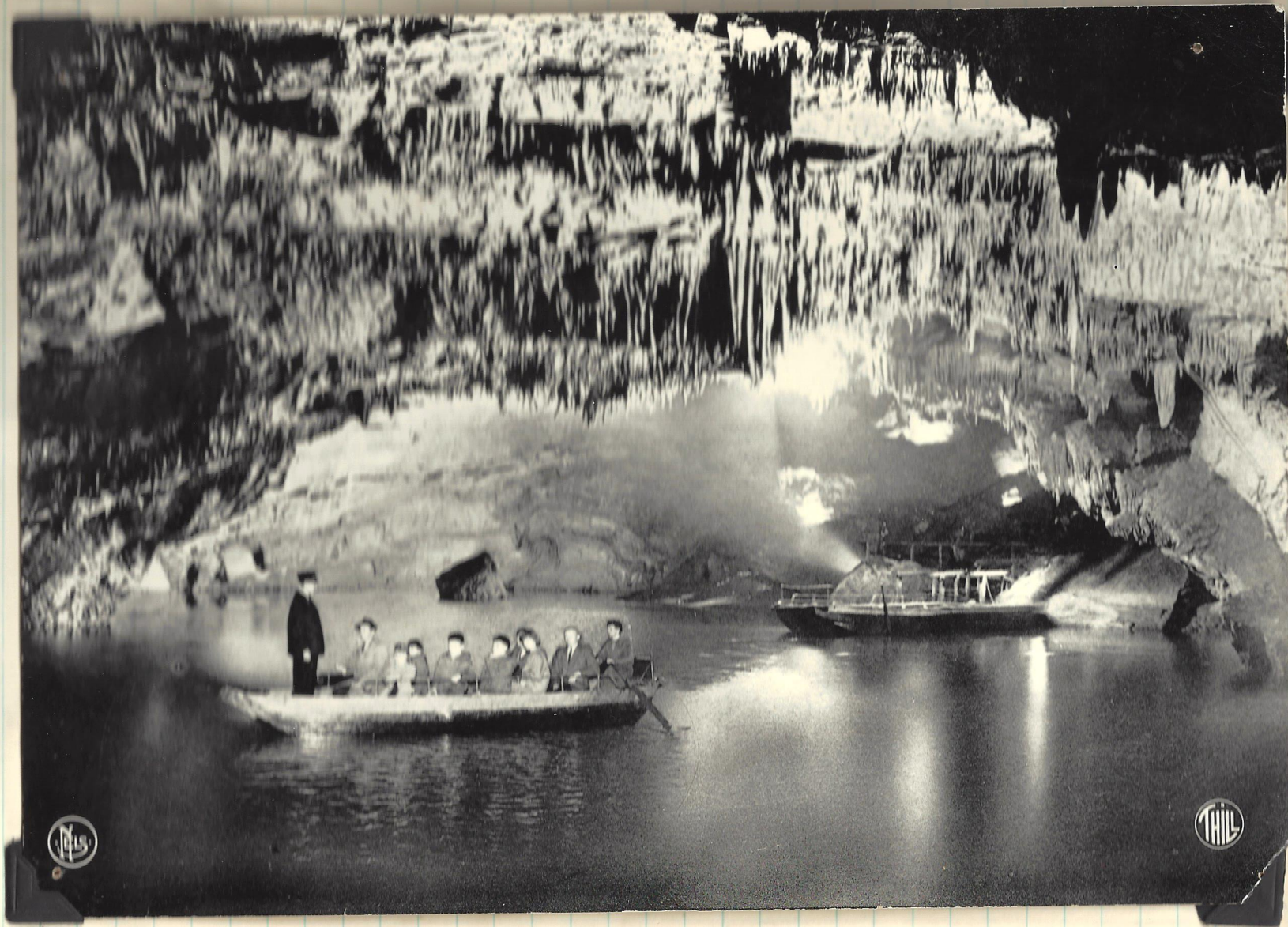
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MICHEL SIFFRE IN

THE TIMES 18TH SEPT 1962

OBSERVER 30TH SEPT 1962



Han-sur-Jesbe. Belgium.