1966-03

Vol. III No. 1

UTG NEWS

MARCH 1966

Thought for the Month:
What Super-Caving-Vehicle runs equally well underwater and without bearings?

New Life Member

Ruben M. Frank, newest life member of the UTG, is better known as Bud to Texas spelunkers and speleologists. He started out as a Texan, born in Youkum, Texas, sometime after the turn of the century. His caving began in Corpus Christi, a seemingly unlikely place, but with a, then, active group—the Corpus Christi Speleological Society. It was there he earned his little-known nickname, Buddy "Hammock" Frank.

Bud recognized the need to view some of the classic caves of Europe and consequently consented to travel with the U. S. Army. With his usual luck he managed to catch the 1958 International Congress of Speleology.

On his return he joined UTG and entered UT as well. Bud's interest and cooperation were invaluable in the mapping and exploration of Texas caves. His speleologic interests carried over into graduate school at the University so much so that his thesis is entitled "Petrologic Study of Sediments from Selected Central Texas Caves." The NSS awarded Bud a research grant to assist his thesis work in 1965. Since that time he has worked as a geologist for the Texas Water Development Board in addition to his regular job as field geologist for the Texas Speleological Survey.

Sometime in the middle of the above paragraph, Bud got hitched to Marge Cridlebaugh; they now have two children—Mike and James.

Bud's fame has come in part from his recent work in cave sediments and vertebrate speleopaleontology. He has had frequent articles in the Texas Caver, geologic sections in the Texas Speleological Survey, and a whole issue of the TSS on vertebrate paleo in Texas caves. He served as Vice-chairman of the Texas Region (TSA) which he supports strongly.

We hope that since Bud is now a life member, he can devote his $6 a year to more and better speleology.

Dick Smith and
James Reddell

New Officers

Chairman - John Fish
Vice-chairman - Phillip Winshorough
Sec.-Treas. - Susie Loving
Equipment Chairman - Ed Alexander
Research Chairman - Merydith Turner

New Qualified Members

Sue Emory
Freda Miller
Marsha Meredith
Charlie Jennings
Jonathon Davis
Ed Burg

The falling body experiment
($a = \frac{1}{2} a t^2$)

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Caving..... and the weather??

Sometimes I wonder if caving is becoming like the weather—everyone talks about it but few do anything about it. Many times cavers, especially new ones, do not get to go on trips because they cannot find anyone to take them. All too often the qualifieds or old-timers go caving without the newer members getting a chance to go. We need the continual influx of active, new cavers for the continuity and stability of the grotto.

Texas has more caves than almost every other state, and some of them are quite extensive and beautiful. Furthermore, there are hundreds more to be found and explored. Despite the many obstacles peculiar to Texas caving (rancher relations, deer season, lambing season, etc.), there is almost always someplace interesting to see. New cavers, show some initiative by encouraging trips and finding places to go (always take a qualified member along). One of the bigger thrills you can have is finding new caves and exploring them. Qualified members, take new cavers on trips as often as possible.

Remember that "there's no place to go" really is not an excuse. Use the club files and the experience of others to determine a place to go.

Juan

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Inaugural Brawl

The Inaugural Brawl, held at Dennis' and Charlie's, turned out tame compared to reports of past brawls. It was a success, nevertheless, starting up again in the afternoon of the next day. The Brawl produced more than hangovers, however. The executive councel held a quickie meeting and appointed the new editor for the UTG Newsletter before she had a chance to say NO. Fortunately she has the able assistance of Carol Westmoreland—and the rest of the club!! She will do her best but the newsletter will contain what you want it to; so please—ideas and contributions!

M. M.

Trip Reports

Musquiz, Coahuila (March 4-9)

After many hours of preparation, five intrepid explorers left Austin at 11:00 p.m. Friday. Mike and Lynn Collins with friend named Terry from Houstin joined with Ed Alexander and Stanley Everett for the purpose of discovering huge caverns near Musquiz, Coahuila, Mexico. The roving Land Rover arrived in Eagle Pass later in the evening and continued on to Musquiz on Saturday.

The ambitious spelunkers soon found a willing Mexican guide who promised many great wonders within a short drive from the town. Hopes high our heros spent the rest of the day on Rover-breaking caminos and following great guide through rocky, caveless canyons. Returning to town, the day was ended by a great fiesta and the expedition camped at La Cascada.

Sunday was much the same. Awaking early at 10:00 a.m., the guide was not to be found, so the day was spent looking for Cueva de Pariso. Two hours elapsed, finding the Rover at the mouth of a canyon where a friendly sheepherder offered the information that the cave was only six canyons to the south. This excursion was called a complete success since another cave was discovered in the valley floor with 75 feet of bombing crawlway.

Back at Musquiz the guide of the previous day was found who, much to our joy, said he could take us to Pariso in twenty minutes. He himself had been there and written his own name within the cavern. The location was certain. More driving, more hiking, more swearing, road lost, explorers lost, illustrious guide lost, no cave.

We left for Texas at 10:00 p.m. in eager Rover, becoming lost only twice on the way to Piedras Negras. Spent only four hours in Eagle Pass patching Rover wheel bearing and continued at a fast limp to San Marcos where faithful Rover sprained its other ankle. With many regrets, the trusted steed parted the expedition and arrival in Austin was by Jennings' rescue, via Falcon, Monday afternoon.

Ed Alexander

Rio Comuy

On February 2, Jack Burch and I left San Antonio for Puerto Rico, making stops in Houston, New Orleans, Miami, and finally arriving at San Juan airport at about noon February 3. Here the expedition members gathered; by 2:00 everyone had arrived and we were all off to the cave which is about 50 miles from San Juan, near the town of Arecibo. The area is very picturesque with "haystacks" visible in all directions. Russ Gurnee, leader of the expedition, got us all together that night and outlined the objectives of the trip which were to make further exploration in the cave, photograph certain areas, do a survey and make a report as to the commercial possibilities of the cave.

The following day Roy Davis, Al Mueller, Pepi Limeres and I were assigned to make the traverse from Empolme Sink to Tres Pueblos Sink which was about 1500 feet across the surface. We had two life rafts and other miscellaneous equipment with us when we started paddling up the river. After about 300 feet we encountered a 40 foot waterfall; since we were going upstream we had a hard time getting over it, but finally managed. We found that

it was a tributary and that there was a waterfall on the other side also, so we had to give up because of no ladders. We returned the next day and got the boats over the falls and down the other side. After about 100 feet of rowing we encountered rapids and had to portage for the next 400 feet over large boulders and through large passage, about 100 feet wide and high. Once again we got to deep water and launched our boats and started paddling. It was smooth going for about 600 feet when we hit another siphon which we had to go over. This proved easy and after another 300 feet of calm water we came into sight of Tres Pueblos Sink.

The following day I helped out around camp and that afternoon we all went to the beach swimming.

Jim Story and I were given the job of checking a small pit a couple of kilometers from Empolme which had a tremendous amount of air blowing out of it. It dropped down a number of small drops for about 40 feet and then there was a 200 foot drop into a large passage. We could hear the river in the distance so after rappelling down we headed for it. There was another 80 feet of drop to the water which was in a known part of the cave. We checked for a short distance in the other direction and saw that it kept going so we prussiked out and got a good night's sleep.

The next day we went back in and explored for about 1500 feet in the other direction before it ended in breakdown. We surveyed this and took a few pictures, then returned to the surface.

The next few days were spent photographing, doing a surface survey and making short trips into the cave for various reasons.

All agreed that the trip was a great success and everything that we had planned was accomplished. The entire trip report will appear in a future edition of the NSS Bulletin.

Orion Knox

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Wanted!!!

Information about and locations of Indian sites (archeological) in Coahuila, Nuevo Leon and Tamaulipas. Preferably rockshelters and cave sites. Pictures and local references if possible. Contact:

Ron Ralph
Texas Archeological Salvage Program
Balcones Research Center
Rt. 4, Box 189
Austin, Texas

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The UTG Newsletter is currently being edited and published by Marsha Meredith, 306 W. 29th, Austin, Texas.

Editorial Staff: Carol Westmoreland and Merydith Turner

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Want to learn how to fly? Contact Terry Rains.
Details in next UTG News.