UTG NEWSLETTER

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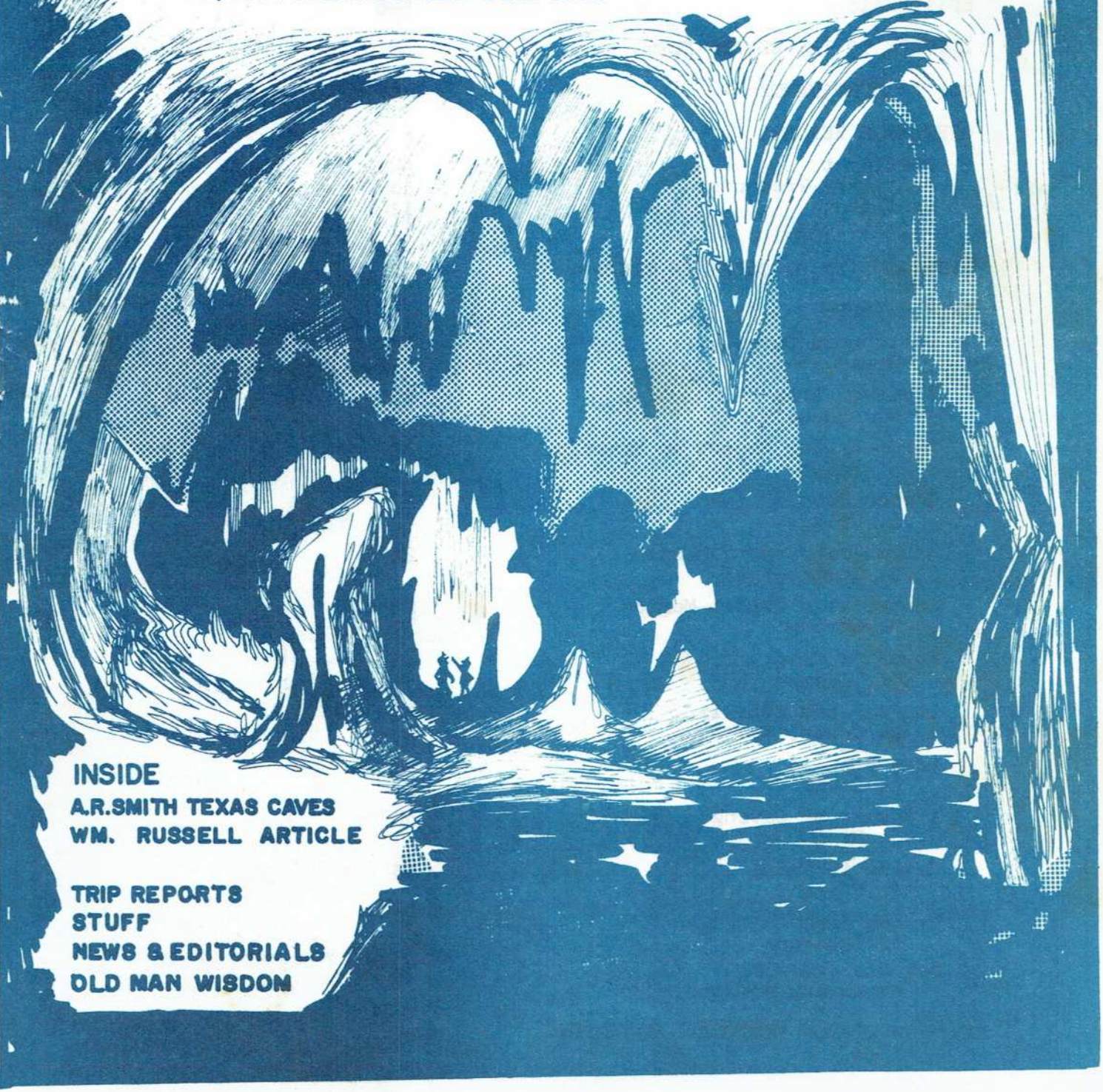

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A.R. SMITH TEXAS CAVES
WM. RUSSELL ARTICLE

TRIP REPORTS
STUFF
NEWS & EDITORIALS
OLD MAN WISDOM

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EDITORIAL BOARD

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Trip Reports;	General Members

Scan and OCR, January 2022, by William R. Elliott.

The U.T.G. Newsletter is published periodically under the auspices of someone or another way up high in that tower place.

Address all complaints, lauditory comments, donations, etc. to:

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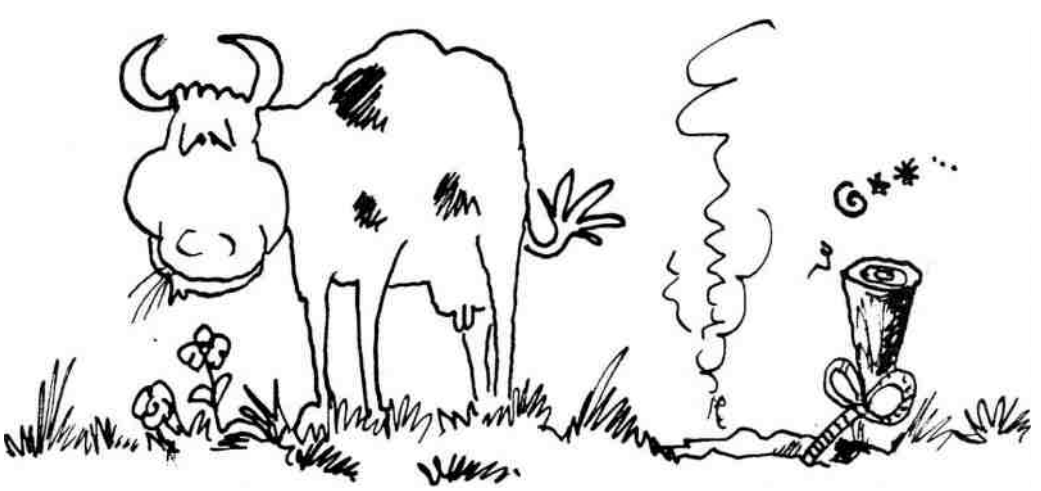

TO: The general membership
FROM: Old Man Wisdom
SUBJECT: Editorial Comment and Instigation of a Caver of the month program

Let it be known that the UTG is going to pick a caver of the month starting with the month of August 1967. The special board of selection is as following ; Rooney . Plema , Bud Frank , Arthur Simp son, Police officer Sawin, William David Bell III, and Old Man Wisdom, (alternates are R.Ralph, S. Loving, and S. Cowan)

The caver of the month will be awarded a special Wizzy at our annual food fest on Dec. 7th or there abouts. A list of those chosen
so far are.

August.....Will Cowan
Sept.....Ron Ralph
Oct.....Lani Wiggins
Nov.....Squire Lewis

Female cavers of the month are as follows..... NONE

Awarded the honor of Cuingasngook or Cningasngok.... Richard Smith for the third straight year. This is for super example setting in the field of Bio-science and arrow head eating

To Terry Raines goes the award for the most unwanted and unnecessary - contributions to the science of speleology along with the most needed and wanted contributions to the science of speloeologically.....

The editorial staff wishes to tnank T. Plemons for nis aid in spelling and to Kris Kroger without whom this would nave been possible anyway.

To the United States Air Force we wish to give our devoted thanks..

All cartoons in this publication
may be reproduced only with the
permission of the editorial board
The TEXAS CAVER need not ask this
permisión.. it is given.....

Old Man Wisdom

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE - if any

The staff would like to reaffirm the guiding principles of this newsletter, primarily for the benefit of those new cavers who are not already familiar with it. We wish to offer a publication which will be enjoyed by all, which will inform, amuse and edify - in general, one that will be worth reading. With the exception of CIL's pictoral narrative of incidents in the life of Old Man Wisdom, the bulk of the newsletter must come from the general membership- usually in the form of trip reports, and asorted Learned Articles, we will print anything within reason that a member brings us, however, so bring us something to print - your name, maybe?

EDITORIALS

AS most know, there was a party at 1800 Rio Grande. it was a smashing success.....

Is anyone interested in those things which exist outside the Austin City Limits? Like caves in Australia, perhaps? Bud Frank, one of the Grotto's members who "made good" and is now in residence in Australia has sent A. Richard Smith (local expert on West Texas diplomacy, parlementary theory, procrastination as a life-force, ect.,ect.,) a volume in which he describes various aspects of caving in Australia, such as caves and maybe cavers, even. If you ask nicely, perhaps A. R. Smith will let you read it. Then again, maybe he won't.

The Board of Regents of this wonderful place have been thinking again ... that means trouble for somebody ... probably the students. This time they, in their wisdom, have decided to reserve the title, "University of Texas" for official organs of the university, such as, we assume, the "University of Texas board of Regents", the "University of Texas Longhorn Football Team", "The University of Texas University of Texas", etc. This leaves us

(formerly the "University of Texas Grotto of the N.S.S.") out in the cold. TO fill the gaping hole this ruling produces we propose a contest - prizes and all.

NAME THE GROTTO CONTEST

Can you, in twenty-five words or less, name our club? If so, fame and fortune is yours. Just send your suggestions to : Old Man wisdom, BOX 7672, university station, Austin, Texas. Those entries accompanied by a small donation will be considered first. AS an example of the brilliant thinking already done on the subject, we submit the name: the "U (niversity under the) T (ower) Grotto", Get it? Heh, heh. clever, eh? Well, if you can do better - then do it! I First prize is a full black and white pin-up of Old Man Visdom, himself, second prize is one of himself's autographs. Last prize is a tour of Cave"″X" , conducted by Jim Dunlap, Safety Director of the Horizontal Division.

Some notes on the next issue : there may be one. If so, we may enter an article of interest to all politically aware cavers, "Spelunker Power - Theory and Practice". Trip reports and Learned Articles will abound; all profusely illustrated.

For the edification of those wishing to be edified (a process remotely connected to petrification, 1 think) a display case has been donated to the club on a semi-permanent basis by the Dept, of Geology (ah, recognition at last; It will be located somewhere in the innards of the new Geology building and the first display, and perhaps the last, will contain six drawings depicting speleogenisis, a map showing general cave areas in Texas, various mineral samples and assorted candid photos (absolutely unposed). The exact location of this wonderous display will no doubt filter down from on high sometime in the not too distant future, however, for the more adventuresome among you - go look for it!

FREDERICK COUTTS
GENERAL

COMMISSIONER GLENN RYAN
TERRITORIAL COMMANDER

The Salvation Army

FOUNDED IN 1865 BY WILLIAM BOOTH

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LT.-COLONEL PAUL THRONBURG
DIVISIONAL COMMANDER

MAJOR & MRS. JAMES A. ANDERSON
COMMANDING OFFICERS

October 11, 1967

U.T.S.S.
Box 7672
Austin, Texas

Attention: Mr. Charles I. Loving

Dear Mr. Loving:

This is in appreciation for the fine work your college students did during the time of Hurricane Beulah. They were a groat relief crew for some of our employees.

Our prayers will be with them and you.

God Bless You.

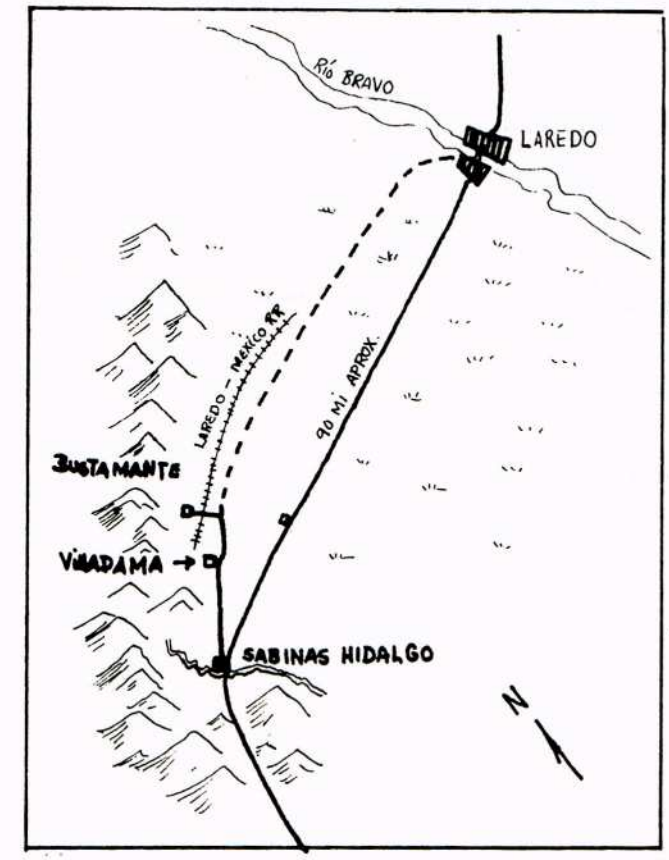
Sincerely yours,

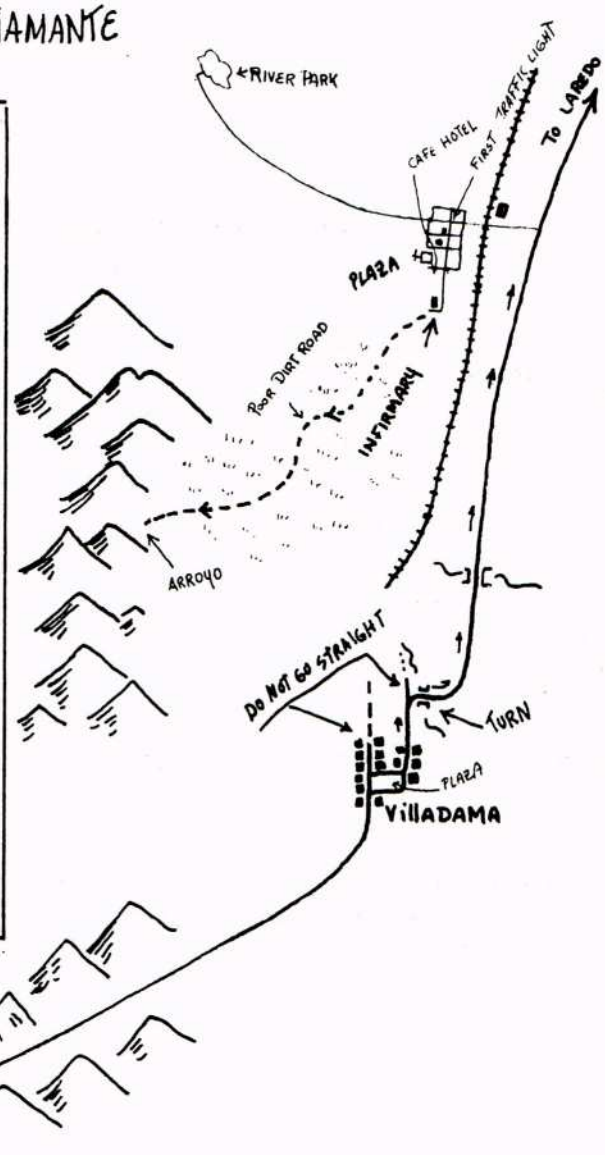
James A. Anderson

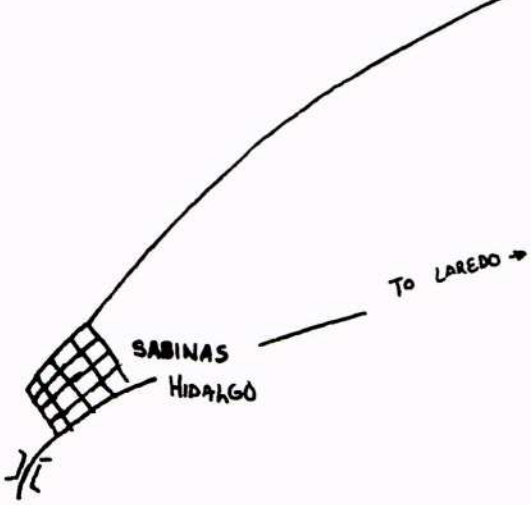
/ James A. Anderson
Major

JAA : tb

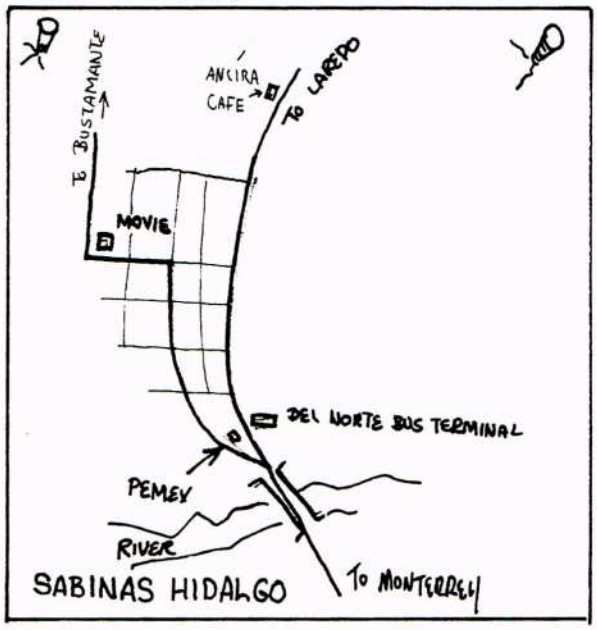
THIS IS A MAP OF HOW TO GET TO BUSTAMANTE







INSET



-FROM the PRESIDENT'S DESK

Greetings and salutations. Welcome back from a summer of hibernation in Mexico and various other and sundry places. Also a hearty welcome to all you future guano grubbers and camp followers.

We're off and running on another year of camping, caving, publishing, boozing, and the other good things that seem to happen along. The summer saw some good caving, etc., in Mexico despite a very soggy rainy season. There was also a bit of caving locally, and for those who stayed in town, there were some real groovy parties.

First and foremost the financial outlook for the year seems to look good. Last year we had a surplus, primarily due to the research chairman not spending his alloted amount. Thus far this year we have purchased a set of walkie talkies and the executive council will establish this year's budget at their next meeting, then submit it to the general membership for their approval.

Speaking of executive council meetings, I hope to see as many members at them as possible. The time and place will generally be passed around at the spelunker table in the Student Union's Chuckwagon. Most of the club's business is taken care of at these meetings and the more opinions we have the better off we will be.

One small gripe that comes to mind and that needs airing is the equipment checkout situation, James Strickland has brought it up at the last couple of meetings and here's my opinion on the matter. The equipment belongs to all the members and should be available to any qualified when not in actual use by someone else. This has not been the case, especially with the bruntons. oome members have checked equipment out and failed to check it back in or let the equipment chairman know where it is. This is showing a lack of consideration for the other members who may want to check it out . I hope this situation changes.

Other points that should be obvious, but I will mention is

to cave safely. Remember that people who become overconfident of their abilities are the ones most likely to get hurt and this we don't need. Also remember rancher relations and keep them good.

As a last thought, one of our members, James Reddell, who is on the N.S.S. Board of Governors, was elected chairman of the Texas Speleological Association this past summer.

STATE OF THE UNION MESSAGE
October 23, 1967 AD
X
EL PRESIDENTE

SECRETARY - TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer reports that we have roughly $272.18 in the bank, -Ah, security ...

The secretary would like all new cavers who have not already done so to give her the cards from training session as well as a piece of paper indicating trips made. The trip information should include the name of the cave, which qualified member was in attendence and if it was overnight or single day trip. She says, "Thank you."

EQUIPMENT REPORT

Strange as it may seem, there is still some equipment left that is neither lost, missing nor broken. In order that what is left may be conserved, a new policy has been instituted in refrence to equipment check-out. The essence of it seems to be that, "He who checks out and checks in again, lives to check out another day." If you intend to lose or misplace the equipment you handle - don't check it out. Jim Strickland, the speleo - suppily, will be happy to <u>sell</u> you any piece of equipment your little hearts desire.

EXPEDITIONS

We gather that the Fall Semester Club Trip is coming up in the first weekend in November It will be, as is customary, to La Grute del Palmito (or something like that), which is commonly refered to as "Busta mante", by UT cavers. This cave is really something. If you haven't been, we strongly urge you to make the trip, it is not a difficult cave, but it is awesome, Go and have a ball - you won't regret it until Monday morning.

DISTRIBUTION OF CAVES IN TEXAS

by A. Richard Smith, TSS

There's probably no one so lacking in common sense as to go looking for caves in mud or loose sand, but the average Texan probably thinks that caves can occur in any kind of hard rocks. Don't laugh; he's right. Caves of some sort occur in almost every kind of rock that's strong enough to stand by its own weight—whether it's limestone or lava, granite or greywacke. Why then, since hard rocks abound in Texas, are caves so localized? Answers to this very important question are the topic of this exposition.

Caves and geology are closely tied together, simply because caves depend on rocks for walls, roof, and floor. More specifically, variations in kind of rock (solubility, ease of erosion) and structures in the rock (fracturing, folding) are the most important in formation of a cave at a given place.

Since most caves form by solution of bedrock, most caves are in rock that is soluble, relatively speaking. An area of rock candy would no doubt have many, but not too permanent, caves, but so far Big Rock Candy Mountain hasn't been found. Salt in salt domes along the Texas Gulf Coast is the next most soluble rock we know. Unfortunately, all surface exposures of salt have long since been dissolved by the wetness of the coastal area. Next down the line of solubility is gypsum($CaSO_4 \cdot 2H_2O$).Texas has two large areas of gypsum--the Gypsum Plain and Northwest Texas—and scattered small areas--Gyp Hill in Brooks County and the Malone Mountains. Caves are abundant over these gypsum outcrops; most drainage is by underground channels. Gypsum caves are not usually extensive, with notable exceptions, because of the weak nature of the bedrock and ease of failure under load. That is to say, don't stand in the middle of a big room in gypsum!

Less soluble but more common are limestone and dolomite. Although the theoretical literature disagrees, limestone and dolomite seem to be about equally soluble by ground water, at least in Texas. Almost all the major caving areas in the state are in limestone and/or dolomite. Nevertheless, all limestone doesn't have caves, for a variety of reasons not all strictly related to the rocks themselves. Large areas of chalk in Texas, such as the Austin Group and the Goodland Limestone have few or no caves because of some chemical or physical deficiency, perhaps high intergranular porosity or high clay content. Some other limestone areas have too many insoluble shale interbeds for cavern formation. The most important cavernous limestone area is the Edwards—Stockton Plateau with limestone thicknesses up to 500 feet. The Ellenburger Group limestone—dolomite outcrop around the core of the Llano region is intensely dissolved, with the most caves per square mile.

A few other cave—bearing rock types are worth mentioning more as curiosities than as commonplace. Marble, metamorphosed limestone, in the Llano region contains a few small caves formed by solution. The two or three caves in East Texas are in sand-stone and resulted perhaps from local ground-water solution of the calcite cement between the sand grains which were later flushed out. In the Big Bend area there are one or two caves in igneous

rocks, due in part to gas bubble cavities and in part to chemical weathering of the individual grains. The caves of Palo Duro Canyon in the Panhandle are remarkable in the fact that they occur along the contact between sand—boulder landslides and the underlying sandstone bedrock. These caves have formed almost entirely by suffosion, or piping, where uncemented sand grains are removed by the erosional power of swiftly—moving ground- water (Smith, 1967).

With the exception of the permeable, porous sandstones Just mentioned the cavernous rocks of Texas, particularly limestone and gypsum, are almost impermeable except where they have been broken. This leads us to the importance of geologic structure in localization of caves. Water movement and solution in limestone and gypsum first begins along the available openings which are joints, faults, and bedding surfaces. These last result from interruptions in deposition usually accompanied by some erosion, making an irregular break between beds. The origins of faults are diverse. Texas has many important fault zones, notable the Balcones fault zone and the faulting in the Llano and Big Bend areas. Whatever their origins, faults provide avenues for ground-water movement as evidenced by the large springs along the Balcones fault zone in Bexar, Comal, Hays, and Travis counties. Joints may be caused by the same tectonic stresses that give faults, or they may even (some think) be due to daily earth-tides. Again, regardless of their origin, joints provide openings for initial ground-water movement. Obviously, when there are no openings for water to move through, caves will be rare.

As important to cave formation as rocks is water. Texas' geography allows tremendous variations in the amount of rainfall in different areas. For example, an average 50 inches of rain drowns East Texas each year, while less than 10 inches sprinkles Far West Texas. Consequently, there should be bigger caves in East Central Texas than in West Central, but this is not the case. Most Texas caves began to form, apparently, during the last Ice Age, the Wisconsin Glacial, during which precipitation was probably very different from now. Certainly there was sufficient water to make the large caves we find now in Texas, but little more can be said of the relation between rainfall and caves.

Local physiography is important to cave formation, too. Gypsum caves in Northwest Texas will illustrate this aspect; many caves there have upper entrances on the upland surface and lower (downstream) entrances on river valley sides. Almost no caves are known from areas away from the rivers. On the other hand conditions may vary sufficiently so as to ignore the effects of relief; Indian Creek Cave is a good example. Deep underground, it pays no attention to surface topography.

This brief elementary summary of factors important in localization of caves in Texas prepares us to divide the state into several speleologic regions. James Reddell (1962, 1964) has done this before, basing his subdivisions, however, more on cavern morphology. The accompanying map shows the approximate boundaries of nine speleologic regions, ignoring a few isolated caves. Dominant characteristics of each of these regions are described in the following paragraphs.

A. Comanche Plateau. Includes parts of Bosque, Burnet, Comanche, Coryell, Hamilton, Lampasas, and Mills counties. Caves occur in the Edwards Limestone, here fairly thin and usually cap—

ping hills and divides. Jointing, not expecially common, is related to the Balcones fault zone on the east and to small local structures, some of which are due to solution and compaction of underlying rocks. Most caves seem to be related to bedding surfaces. Diamond Cave is the largest known cave.

B. Balcones Fault Zone. Includes a strip of counties--(parts of) Bell, Williamson, Burnet, Travis, Hays, Comal, Bexar, Medina, Uvalde, Kinney, and Val Verde—which mark the boundary between the Gulf Coastal Plain and the higher Edwards Plateau. Thick Edwards Limestone and its western equivalents are the major cave—formers with a few caves in the Trinity Group, Buda Limestone, and expecially to the west, Austin Group. Caves are especially abundant along the Balcones escarpment. Major faulting with displacements up to 750 feet and associated jointing provide good ground-water conduits. Many large caves are known including Inner Space Caverns, Cobb Caverns, Robber Baron's Cave, Indian Creek Cave, and Sally (Four-Mile) Cave.

C. Guadalupe-Blanco Area. Includes parts of Bexar, Blanco, Comal, Hays, and Kendall counties. Large caves occur in the reef limestones of the Glen Rose Formation with a few small caves in the Edwards capping hills. The Guadalupe-Blanco area, really a subzone of the Balcones fault zone, has the jointing and faulting common to the latter. Many major caves are stream caves such as Honey Creek Cave, Spring Branch Cave, and Bartels Cave. Other well-known caves are Cascade Caverns, Natural Bridge Caverns, and Bracken Bat Cave.

D. Llano Region. Includes Llano, and parts of Blanco, Burnet, Gillespie, Kimble, Lampasas, McCulloch, Mason, Menard, and San Saba counties. Caves are known from several limestone units, the most notable of which is the Ellenburger Group. Others are the Cap Mountain and Marble Falls formations. Major faulting, jointing, and gentle folding are common. Many caves develop as large fissure systems in areas of intense jointing. The cavernous limestone units ring an interior core of igneous and metamorphic rocks which are speleologically almost barren. Some of the larger caves of the Llano region are Longhorn Caverns, Buffalo Cave, Gorman Cave and Mason Bat Cave.

E. Edwards Plateau. This area, consisting of the Edwards Plateau and its Trans-Pecos extension, the Stockton Plateau, has been subdivided into eastern and western parts on the basis of major cave types.

E_1. Eastern Edwards Plateau. Includes Bandera, Kerr, Real, and parts of Edward's, Gillespie, Kendall, Menard, Schleicher, and Sutton counties. All the caves known are in the Edwards Group or equivalent rocks. A few minor faults are known with equally minor jointing, some of which may be related to solutional removal of the Kirschberg Gypsum (in the lower Edwards). Where the Kirschberg is locally preserved, the gypsum contains a few unusual caves. Many of the caves show irregular plans, many collapse rooms, and much bedding plane development. Powell's Cave (9.6 miles long at this writing), Fleming Bat Cave, Station C Cave, Dragoo Cave, and Cave of the Lakes are well-known caves of the Eastern Edwards Plateau.

E_2.Western Edwards Plateau. Includes Crockett, Terrell, and parts of Brewster, Edwards', Irion, Pecos, Reagan, Schleicher,

Sutton, Upton, and Val Verde counties. Like the eastern section all the caves are in the Edwards Group, and faulting and jointing are minor. The area is typified by large branching caves with elliptical passages terminating in circular rooms and by multi-level maze caves. The former are represented by Blackstone, Fern, and Fawcett Caves; the later, by Caverns of Sonora. In addition there are a number of linear deep caves with long drops such as 0-9 Well, Langtry Lead Cave, and Emerald Sink.

F. Big Bend. Includes parts of Brewster and Presidio counties. The few caves in the Big Bend are in the Santa Elena and Del Carmen Formations (approximately equivalent to the Edwards Group), totalling about 1100 feet of massive limestone. There is major faulting and folding in the area, but still very few known caves, perhaps due to low rainfall in past times. However, large caves may be found with more intensive search,

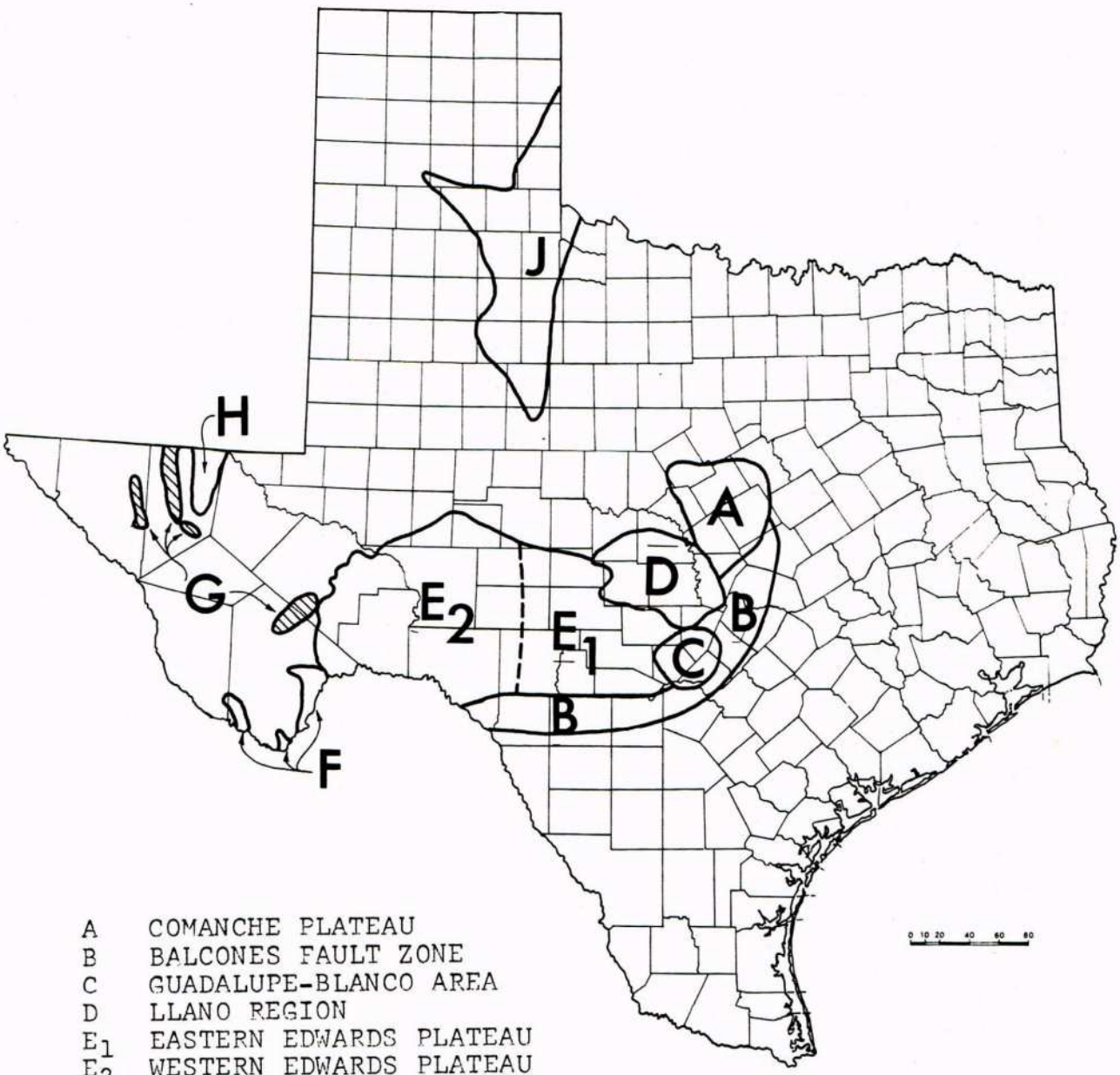
G. Reef Mountains. Includes Glass Mountains in Brewster and Pecos bounties; Delaware, Apache, and Guadalupe Mountains in Culberson County; and Sierra Diablo in Culberson and Hudspeth Counties. The reef mountains are so named because they are composed in large part of Permian reef limestone and associated rocks, which are the major cave-formers. Ground-water movement was along primary depositional features of the reefs and along later joints initiated by uplift of the mountain blocks. Windlass Cave in the Apaches, McAdoo Bat Cave in the Sierra Diablo, and 400 Foot Cave in the Glass Mountains are well-known. The outstanding caves in the Carlsbad Caverns area lend continued hope to cave-hunting in the reef mountains.

H. Gypsum Plain. Entirely in Culberson County. The Gypsum Plain is named for the 10 by 40 mile outcrop of Castile Gypsum, which contains most of the caves. A few caves are found in sinkhole and valley fill. Most caves are less than 500 feet long, but quite varied in size and shape; Border Cave, more than 1000 feet long, has been known for many years.

J. Northwest Texas. Includes Childress, Cottle, Hall, and parts of Armstrong, Briscoe, Collingsworth, Dickens, Foard, Fisher, Hardeman, Hemphill, Kent, King, Motley, Nolan, Randall, Scurry, Stonewall, and Wheeler Counties. Caves of Northwest Texas are formed in Permian gypsum with interbedded dolomite and shale, except for those in Palo Duro Canyon which are in sand-stone and landslide debris. Most of the caves are merely underground routes used by stream floods from the upland areas to the river valleys; some are subterranean meander cut-offs. Best-known are River Styx Cave, longest gypsum cave in Texas, Pothooks, Walkup, and Aspermont Bat Caves. Salt Spring Cave and Estelline Salt Hole are both salt water springs.

The nine speleologic regions described above omit some very interesting but isolated caves and cave groups. Among these are the gypsite caves of Ward County, the caprock caves in Lubbock County, and the Sandstone caves of far East Texas. Also neglected were isolated caves in limestone far outside the regions, such as Cramer's Scenic Mountain Cave in Howard County, Hueco Mountains Shaft in El Paso County, and the Phantom Lake complex in Jeff Davis County.

The table, showing the number of caves in each region and other statistical information, appeart to give some idea of the



A COMANCHE PLATEAU
B BALCONES FAULT ZONE
C GUADALUPE-BLANCO AREA
D LLANO REGION
E_1 EASTERN EDWARDS PLATEAU
E_2 WESTERN EDWARDS PLATEAU
F BIG BEND
G REEF MOUNTAINS
H CULBERSON GYPSUM PLAIN
J NORTHWEST TEXAS

speleologic "goodness" of each region; what it really gives is the relative amount of time spent looking for caves. All of the western regions need intensive search to determine their real merit, but this by no means should deter further search in the eastern regions. Texas now can count about 1400 known caves; all factors indicate that there may be as many more not yet found.

+++

Cave Distribution in the Speleologic Regions of Texas

	Speleologic Region	No. of Caves+	Approx, area sq. ml.	Caves per 100 sq. mi
A.	Comanche Plateau	23	3500	0.67
B.	Balcones Fault Zone	480	6500	7.50
C.	Guadalupe—Blanco Area	156	l600	8.50
D.	Llano Region	245	3900	6.28
E_1.	Eastern Edwards Plateau	156	7900	1.97
E_2.	Western Edwards Plateau	140	13,300	1.05
F.	Big Bend	11	1100	1.00
G.	Reef Mountains	13	800	1.65
H.	Gypsum Plain	52	500	10.40
J.	Northwest Texas	48	9300	5.16

+Reddell & Smith, 1966.

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COTTONWOOD CAVE...
..and Other Guadalupe Mountains Caves

by Bruce

There was a caving trip to the Guadalupe Mountains near the New Mexico—Texas border over the weekend of October 15-16. The members of the trip were Terry Raines, qualified caver; and Lee Warrington, Phyllis Della Croce, Frank Ghigo, and I, new members of the Grotto. Leaving Austin at 6 PM Friday the enthusiastic caravan set sail across the hill country to Fort Stockton, Pecos, and at 4 AM Saturday morning (having just taken an half-hour flat changing break) arrived on the outskirts of Carlsbad, N.M. where there awaited a beautiful campground...a parking lot of a cotton gin next to a freight yard. After a few hours sleep the party was on the road to the section of the Lincoln National Forest next to the Texas border and Guadalupe Mountains National Park. Phyllis acted as a guide to get the party to the Dark Canyon Lookout Station (elevation 6950 feet J. Here the Austin cavers met a group of cavers from Sul Ross at Alpine, Texas. The leader of the Alpine group was Dwight Deal, who is professor of geology at Sul Ross. Both groups camped further down the ridge from the lookout tower.

Arriving at the campground about 11 AM, our party set out to find the Alpine cavers who were already on their way to Gunsight Cave. Using a map left by Mr. Deal at the camp, our party set out for a very long afternoon of hiking along the ridge tops and down into the canyons in search of the elusive Gunsight. Terry Raines spotted the entrance to the cave far behind us and lower down, so our tired, thirsty, cacti—attacked crew turned around and hiked back toward the entrance. We met Mr. Deal on the way and after giving us further directions he set off to rejoin his group. We found Gunsight Cave (first discovered in the early 1930's) and spent about two hours in its spacious chambers. Coming out at dusk we started back to camp with 50 mile per hour winds and light rain for company. After a quick supper (feast) everyone was soon asleep.

At 9 AM Sunday morning breakfast was prepared and camp broken. We set off back to the fire lookout station then turned off onto a road which took us almost to the entrance of Cottonwood Cave, a well-known and hence rather littered cave about 150 feet high and 100 feet across at the entrance room. The cave remained very large throughout. Coming to the end of the first horizontal passage, we went through a low passage (the entrance is blocked by a steel gate installed by the forest service) and were soon in another large passage having many speleothems. The extent of littering in this section of the cave is a sure lesson to any caver to leave nothing but footprints. All members enjoyed a chilling 30 to 40 foot swim through 54° water after which point the formations became too beautiful and numerous to mention. Having to leave for Austin at 5:30 PM, we had to turn back before completely traversing the length of Cottonwood Cave. We arrived back at the entrance where there was a short rest and photography break before continuing down the rough to the valley and desert country. After a long tired drive our party arrived back in Austin at 4:30 Monday morning. Having traveled about 1200 miles and gained and lost over a mile in elevation we were both saddened and gladdened to be home.

There appears to be a lot of virgin cave in far West Texas and New Mexico. Let's get out there and find 'em.

Aquismon Area, S.L.P. - Qto.
Sept. 1-9, 1967
Calvert, Evans, Fish, Raines and Russell.

On the evening of Sept. 1, Bill Calvert (who is James Reddell's brother-in-law), Terry Raines, Terry's father (who was go-ing only as far as Cd. Victoria), John Fish, T.R. Evans and Bill Russell left Austin in Terry's pickup to search for new caves in the high limestone karst area west of the Inter-American high- way (Mex 85) near Aquismon about fifty miles south of Cd. Valles. We first planned to stop by Sótano de Golondrinas, a day's walk from Aquismon, and then look for caves and pits in the higher areas not yet visited. We each carried a Kelty pack of food and only minimal caving equipment except for the 1200' of braided nylon rope for the 1090' entrance drop into Sótano de Golondrinas. We drove through the night and deposited Mr. Raines in Cd. Victoria early next morning. Following the highway south, we arrived at Aquismon about 1:00pm. The president was out of town and would not be back until that evening, so it was late by the time we had obtained our letter from him. (As caves in Mexico are government property, it is necessary to obtain a letter from the president, the highest elected official in the municipo - equivalent to a U.S. county.) We accepted an offer to sleep on the porch of the jail as it was rainy season and rained every night. we awoke early next morning after only a few interuptions as the more unruely drunks from the nearby fiesta were carried by. The fiesta was a benefit held to raise money for street repairs - they even sold us twenty pesos worth of tickets. We quickly found a man to carry the rope. (The rope filled a duffel bag and weighed about fifty-five pounds; our packs with a week's food and supplies weighed about forty pounds, except for John Fish, who carried a 1500' wire for depth measurement and other heavy extras.) At first we were somewhat concerned about the ability of the little old man carrying our rope to keep up with us. As it turned out, he

apparently didn't mind too much waiting for us. The trails are quite steep and rocky and not at all like national park trails, but the worst was that eight days and nights of rain the week before had collected in the bottoms of some of the large bowl shaped karst valleys (they are locally called 'hoyas'- the h in Spanish is usually silent, but hoya is one exception - the h is pronounced like an English h.) Hoyas range from 2-300' up to 2-3000' in diameter, The water in the bottom of several of these valleys had blocked the trail, forcing travelers to climb over the jungle covered karren. We finally arrived at Sotano de Golondrinas late Sunday afternoon, and next morning, rigged the pit. Terry Raines and John Fish descended to photograph the pit - this making John the first person to descend twice. This pit is so deep - 1090' on the low side, that it takes 30 minutes to rappel in and about two and a half hours to prussik out. (A fist sized rock takes 10.5 seconds to reach bottom - time that on your watch.) The pit took most of the day, and just before dark a local official - the equivilent of a deputy sherriff - arrived and wanted to know why we hadn't come by his office in Tamapatz to show him our letter as provided for in article 23 of the Mexican Constitution, and that he couldn't be responsible for us unless everyone went by Tamapatz on the way to Golondrinas (which is about three extra hours of walking). Terry finally calmed him down and we agreed to go into town and show him our letter (which he had just seen). Next morning we walked into Tamapatz with our equipment - a ten year old boy who didn't weigh much more than the rope carried it. We reached Tamapatz, stopped by the local jefe maxima's office, ate, and then spent the rest of the day visiting caves near town. We first went to Cueva de Santajól, a cave about fifteen minutes southwest from town, that T.R. had heard about on his last trip. This cave consisted of a single passage about sixty feet wide, seventy feet high and four hundred feet long. From this cave we were guided to to a small, inconspicuous cave entrance in a thickly wooded area. This small crawl-in entrance that took no water led to a long horizontal cave. We explored about 1000' of mostly walking passage before it was time to return, about

fifty feet inside the cave is an alter with a crudly carved human figure, and fresh flower offerings. At the entrance to the cave is a pile of broken pots over three feet high. We stumbled through the rain and darkness back to Tamapatz and spent the night in the municipal storeroom. Next morning we seperated - John Fish, Bill Calvert and T.R. Evans going west to visit a large solution vally and Terry Haines and Bill Russell going north to where the Río Santo Domingo has cut a deep canyon through the karst plateau.

Bill and Terry walked north through Tansosob to La Cuchilla, where they spent the night in the schoolhouse. The next day they visited caves and viewpoints of the area, the largest cave being Cueva de Nacimiento de San Miguel, which was explored about 200' to a pit. There are hundreds of sinks in the area, many with small crawlways at the bottom. The next day Bill and Terry returned to Tamapatz via Rancho Nuevo, passing numerous pits and sinks on the way, the deepest being 150′.

John Fish, Bill Calvert and T.R. Evans walked west from Tamapatz to Rancho de la Luz, where they spent the night in an abandoned house, after checking the cave from which flowed the local water suppily. The next day they walked down into the large solution valley and spent the night in the school house at Rancho La Parada. The next day was spent in visiting caves and pits in the area, the deepest being Sótano de San Isidro, a 300' pit in the valley floor. Several other caves were located along the valley walls.

WINSTON, HOW COME YOU TOOK ALL THOSE PICTURES WITH THE LENS COVER ON?

The next day the group returned, checking several caves on the way back, the largest being Cueva de Agua Bendita #1, a large room about three hundred feet long and two hundred feet wide.

When the group reassembled in Tamapatz and compared notes, they found that people both in the North and in the west had told them that the big cave was El Socovan [Socavon], west of La Parada on the trail to Carrizal. This cave and the high area south of Tamapatz both need to be investigated. The discovery on the way back by John Fish and T.R. of another large cave just north of Tamapatz, makes the second large cave that water enters (the first was found by T.R. on an earlier trip and was explored for about 1500' through large passage until they ran out of rope.) The two water caves, the broken pot cave and the several smaller caves are a least a week's work for the most dedicaced caving group. The water entering these caves emerges over 600 meters lower from the Cuevo [Cueva] de Nacimiento de Rio Coy, about fifteen kilometers northeast of Tamapatz.

The return trip, with a rest stop in Cd. Victoria, was uneventful.

Bill Russell

A NON-CAVING TRIP REPORT ON YUCATAN

September, 1967

Thursday morning, the fourth day after registration began, found Juan Pescado [John Fish] sipping coffee in the Chuck Wagon and speculating on which of the many freshman geology labs he would be teaching the following week. He had decided that he would probably get Friday evening and Saturday morning labs. As he started to throw his "Final announcement of Courses" across the room, he spied a bedraggled couple weaving into his line of fire. He recognized them immediately, despite their haggard facade, and watched silently as they colapsed into an inert pile at his table. After a few minutes, as the color began to return to their faces, they turned to Juan as he said,

"Hi, Ron. Hi, Fred. When did you get in from Mexico?"

There was a pause and then a sigh as Ron said, "Midnight."

"Midnight! I thought you were going to catch a plane out of Mérida, Yucatan, and fly back to Reynosa last Saturday. Why so late?" ejaculated Juan.

"Go to Hell, sumbitch," Fred mumbled.

"Hurricane blew away the plane," said Ron.

"How did you get back?" "Bus," snapped Fred over his shoulder as he turned to ask another caver for a fifteen cent hand-out to augment his one-nickle, twenty-centavo bankroll. He then staggered off toward the coffee line.

"Tell me about your trip," said Juan gleefully.

"Well," said Ron, "it sounds like all the other Mexican stories... we bussed to Larado, trained to Mexico City, spent five days there, bussed to Veracruz, rested for thirty-six hours, then bussed to Coatzalcoalcos to try and see the Olmec ruins at La Venta, which evidently are seldom visited by tourists at any time of year. The area is characterized by swamp and sand... not real hot cave country.

"From Coatzalcoalcos, we took the train to Palenque, stopping long enough to crawl over the huge Maya temple site and poke around the large

tunnel, evidently built back into a spring area, and serviceing a a large part of the site. Limestone hills rise immediately south to Palenque, but heavy underbrush and lack of time made exploration for caves impossible.

"From Palenque, we bussed to Mérida, Yucatan, stopping to purchase two plane tickets home on the sixteenth of September, before heading to the market to spend all our money. Nice hammocks, leathergoods, woven goods and pescados. After buying an example of native dress and a little copal, we returned to the hotel, as Fred wished to practice his green-apple-two-step. Later, I went on to visit Chichen Itzá, old home of the Toltec, and before them,the Maya, with its famous cenote, or well of sacrifice.

"Chichen Itzá is a large collection of stone structures and roads in various stages of restoration. It is located east of Mérida, on the flat plain of Yucatan, in a region spotted with cenotes, but no surface streams. The main well of sacrifice is located 300 meters north of the main pyramid, at the end of one of the old Maya roads. The well is sixty-five meters in diameter and about fifteen to twenty meters vertical to the water. The story has it that the Rain God lives in the bottom of the well and that those sacrificed do not die, but carry messages, usually complaining about the insufficient rainfall, to this god. I sat beside the well for an hour or so and finally decided that there were only about two places where I would try to climb out if I were thrown in, and both of these were extremely doubtful. As I turned to go back to the main part of the site, a Mexican came by in a new Ford Bronco and offered me a lift. The sign on the side read, "Club de Exploración de Mexico", so I showed him my old "Association for Mexican Cave Studies" card and we shot the bull about the caves of Yucatan for a bit. He mentioned that there were some fairly large caves outside of Merida, about five to ten kilometers... although I did not catch their names or the direction. It seems that the Club is exploring the cenote of sacrifice, evidently with the backing of the Mexican archeologists, and were awaiting at that time, a convoy of some thirty to thirty-eight

Gulf of Mexico
TAMPICO
JALAPA
VERA CRUZ
ORIZABA
HUATLA
SR. MADRE DE OAXACA
OAXACA
TUXTLA
Gulf of Tehuantepec
MERIDA
IZAMAL
CHICHEN ITZA
MUNA
TICUL
UXMAL
CAMPECHE
Yb
Che
UAXACTUN
TIKAL
PIEDRAS NEGRAS
BONAMPAK
BELIZE
22
21
20
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vehicles with more men and a full complement of diving equipment. He said that they had descended sixty-eight meters into the well and could go no farther without the equipment. I thanked him for the information and headed back to Mérida. (We noted the convoy between Campeche and Mérida two days later, hurrying to Mérida before the hurricane.)

"The next day we went to the Puuc area to visit Uxmal, another large archeological site south of Merida and just over the Puuc mountains. These mountains are the only things to rise above the Yucatan Penninsula other than the pyramids, and these are but a semi-circular ridge of limestone with a height not exceeding one hundred meters. This area is similar to parts of Chichen ltzá, except that there are no cenotes, and the population depended on aguadas, or natural depressions coated with lime to prevent leakage, and chultunes or cisterns, to catch rain water. There are caves in the low lying Puuc mountains to the north, and these have been mapped to some extent, appearing in a book called, "The Hill-caves of Yucatan", probably a 1920's publication by an obscure eastern archeologist. We had no time or transportation to get to these fine features, so returned to Merida to await our afternoon flight.

CAVE.

"The rest you can imagine, Juan. The hurricane blew our plane plans away, rained us out of Mérida, tried to swamp our ferry boat near Ciudad del Carmen, soaked us in Laredo, and woke us this morning in Austin. I think it has finally caught us after a three day chase. By the way, Juan, if you're going to throw away that "Final Announcement", we could use it to register this morning."

Ron Ralph & Fred Wendorf
Austin, Texas
19 September, 1967

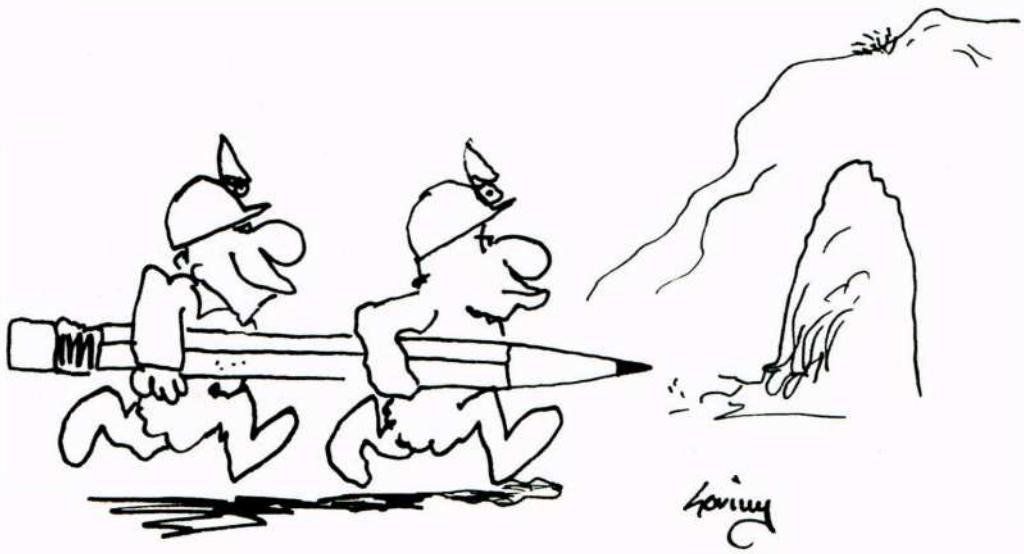
TRIP REPORT

October 7-8, 1967

New cavers: Joann Berg, Bob Berdan, Rolfe and Kathleen Stearns, Michael A. and Barbara Sanborn were led on an overnight trip by Merydith Turner and Eric Griggs to Gorman Falls and Gorman Cave. Though we left Austin in a heavy downpour, by Lampasas the front had passed, leaving a clear, cool evening. Gathering gear, we walked in the darkness to the cave. Outside was somewhat muddy, but the cave had not taken much water recently.

After making the nasty crack, Merydith checked the down-slope into the bottom passage and decided that, though poor, the air was passable. The acid stench from fermenting guano was something else. At the back we dammed up the stream so Eric could crawl back into the drain aways. Not proceeding far, we then pushed out for better air, paused whilst studying a little, thirty feet inside the entrance. So this cave in lime-stone breccia, in a cave in Ordovician limestone, was left after five hours.

Food and a warm campfire, then to a cool (if no sleeping bag) sleep. But again a warm fire in the morning... would you believe pancakes? A walk above and below the falls, still depositing their travertine. How soon will the Colorado be blocked??



TRIP REPORT - MEXICO
September 2-11, 1967

People: Barbara & Jim Hershburger and Phil Winsborough
Purpose: See what was there.

Drove to Tula, saw Tula, drove to Mexico City. Logged some caves south of Tamazanchale. Spent several days in Mexico City seeing museums, rain and places where we got lost. Visited Cuicuilco pyramid in lava flow.

Went to Cholula - big pyramid with tunnels that pass for caves. Camped in Puebla. Next day toured brewry in Orizaba and tried to drive up the mountain that night in pouring rain - mistake - got lost (rather, lost road). Stopped for night near friendly cow. Following day found blanket factory in Santa Ana (??), north of Tlaxcala, which used to have fierce indians. Drove around some more then headed back through Mexico City, through Teotihuacan to Querétaro. Took shortcut over to Ciudad Victoria. Road unpaved for last thirty miles. Very impressive drive. Logged some more caves. Came back to big A.

TRIP REPORT - MEXICO

People: Charlie Loving and Raymundo Sajagun
Place: Uruapan - Lava tubes in the vicinity of Los Reyes.

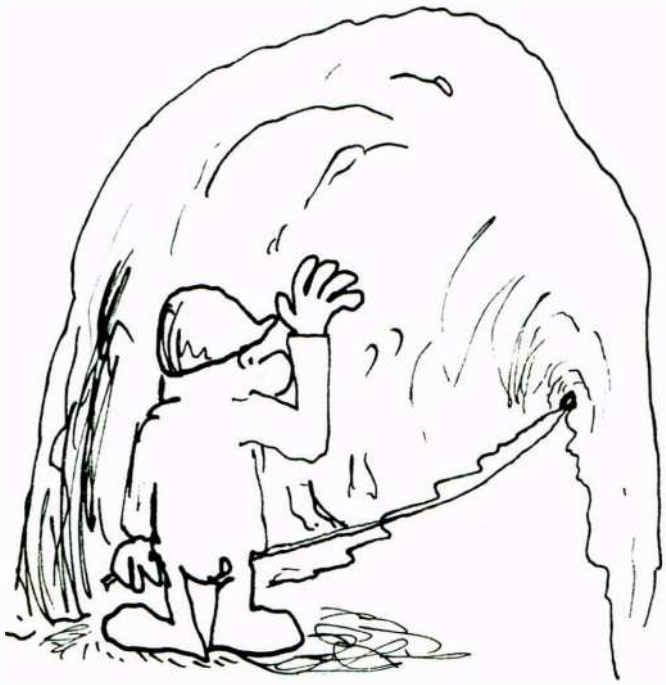
I spent most of the first day on second class busses on my way to Uruapan. When I had last visited the town a year earlier Mike Collins and I had spent the night in an Indian's hut. This was within six miles or so of Paricutin, the famous volcanoe of the region, which in the late thirties exploded from an Indian's corn field. We had ridden to the top of the crater through a moon-like landscape of ash, gravel and sharp pinnacles of lava.

On the last trip the indio had told us of lava tubes and I thought it would be worth checking into, not knowing they were about six miles horseback ride from the village. This is quite strange in Mexico, for the Mexicans prefer to walk, or at least

give that impression. These Indians, though, are quite astute as to the capabilities of the gringo at 5,000 feet, so we rode.

I had zero equipment, so exploring the tubes was done with torches which we found in the enterence to one tube. Outside a heavy drizzle was falling. The stratus hung heavy in the tree tops and it was getting cold and darker as the sun began to set. We explored part of the first tube and then went into the second and third, by now it was pitch black outside and the rain was falling steadily, occasionaly a peal of thunder rumbled across the valley. Rnaymundo told me of an Indian shrine farther down the valley that was built in a lava tube that had water flowing from it, but this was "mala tiempo," and we best return to the village.

We ate a bite and I stuffed a few beetles into a "Fanta" bottle, (They decomposed.) and we rode back in a driving rain.



(MAPPING A LAVA TUBE??)

-Part Two-

After exploring some Toltec ruins with some buffoons from Arizona, I got on the autobus and rode toward the twon of Tequilla.

Arrived in Tequilla and stayed a long time - accomplished nothing at all. Explored the Sausa works, the Cuervo works, and the San Juan works. All were were operating at peak efficency. Saw some caves from the road, but was too ill to enjoy them, perhaps they were just black dots in front of my eyes.

Powell's Cave

We went caving Sunday morning because the party was over... to Powell's cave.

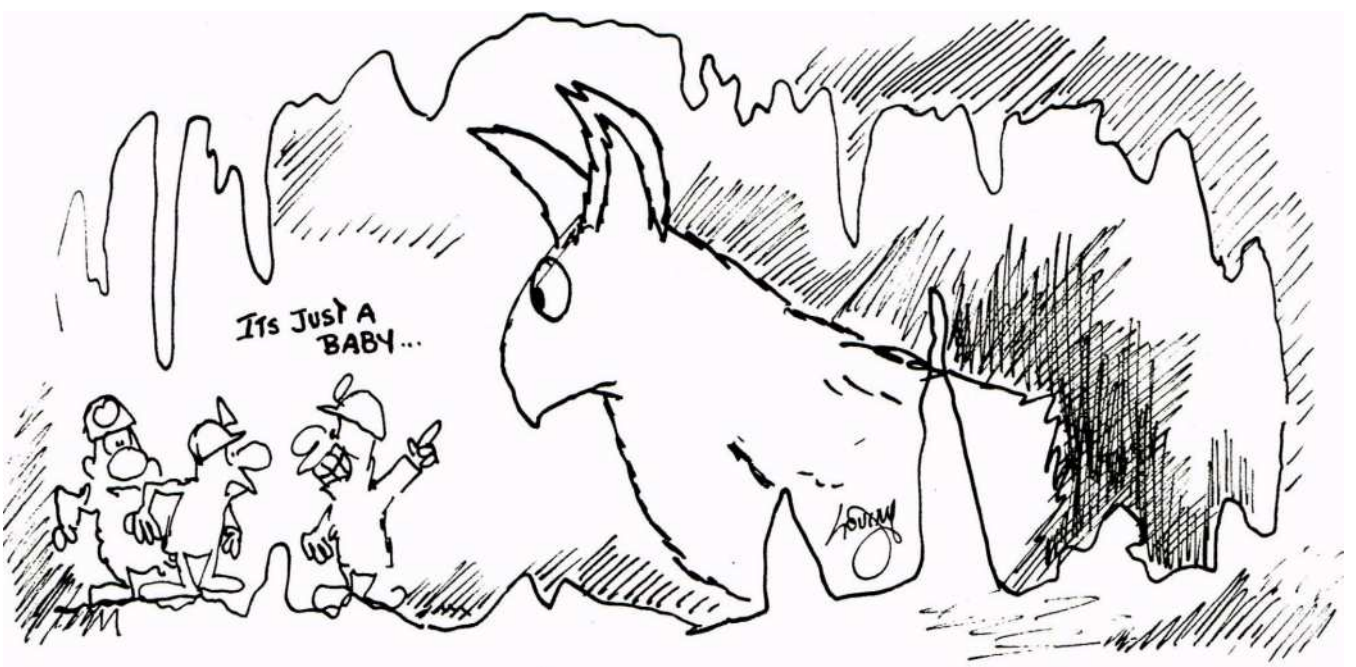
Powell's is approaching nine miles long, the longest in Texas. Doing Powell's is like crawling across Austin on your hands, knees, and belly.

We went in, equipped with maps and Brunton ; and we were immed - iately lost - hopelessly. We finally found the crevass, then we finally found station 3, then we finally found the M. T. A. By the time we finally reached the section we were to map, three hours had elapsed.

Most of our stations were one foot high. There was no place to get up on hands and knees. we mapped 400 feet in eight hours in the cave.

There are many caves in Texas - caves yet to be found. Let the fanatics do Powell's, there is no glory, no self satisfaction, no rational reason for for cavers of the UTSS caliber to crawl their lives away in such a long goddamn groadhole. Pooh!

T. Tracy
C. Owen
G. Smith



What? - Caving

where? - Langtry and Musquiz [Múzquiz]

Whom? - J. wiggins, J. Remington, R. Remington and Sherriff Cowan

why? - why not?

September 15, we left the party about 9:30 or ten arrived in Piedres Negras some hours later to discover the bridge under mucho aqua go to Via Acuna [Villa Acuña].

At Acuna we were instructed to return at 9:00 a.m. because the Heffie had gone to bed and would not return until then. We spent the remainder of the night at Lake Walk sleeping, at 10:00 Saturday morning we arrive at Mexican customs in acuna at 1:45 we were on the road to musquiz at 2:10 we discovered there would be another short delay because a small arroyo had deposited 4 feet of water on the road, we must wait until it goes down. Sunny, desert nothern Mexico where it never rains. Humbug! At six we were on our way once more.

We arrived in Palare about dark and just in time to change a flat the Mexican who fixed the flat found six holes in the tube and a place in the tire for a boot, which was excuse enough to charge six pesos. Ah, well, enough of that. we got to musquiz about midnight and very drunk. Pitch camp, oh no, its raining-unpitch camp and spend four hours inside a VW trying to sleep and waiting for the water to stop coming down. At 4:30, we decided to hell with musquiz and split. Somewhere between musquiz and allende it stopped raining and we stopped driving and started sleeping about 7:30 a huge tremendous monster truck came by and woke us all up. we went into allende and ate breakfast. Then roared back to musquiz and went into musquiz groad hole #1 and swam in the musquiz water resevoir. Having thus cleansed our souls and bodies, we split for lantry and some decent caving. We arrived at Juacalote Maze cave only to discover that doing anything in this cave was out of the question because water had

replaced all the air in the cave we then went to litter barrel cave which was discovered this past summer by Mark Parsons. It is an interesting cave with some interesting passage. Having finally gone through a real live cave, we split for home and arrived in Austin with another flat tire-our only mishap.

SPELEOLOGICAL SALVAGE

Personal: J. Davis, F. Judson Capps, John Pierce

Place: Lake Walk, Val Verde Co.

Time: 4, July, 1967

We were all working for TASP and living in a house on Lake Walk and so on the 4th we went caving there. The Lake is down in a canyon in to Georgetown limestone and there are hole, etc., in the walls all over. We found several groad caves, none over, say, 75 ft. They are of two types: most of them were roughly spherical cavities connected by breakdown passages. One was a joint-controlled crawl. One was not explored due to the presence of a large coon who made motions towards the author when he entered the cave.

This area is going to be drowned by Amistad Dam. Lots of groad caves. Like one every 50 feet along Lake Walk. Go and have a cave after yourself.

We found a centipede.

A SUMMER OF CAVING
[John Fish]

Immediately after school was out in May, Ed Alexander, Johnathan Davis, Ted Peters, Dick Mitchell (from the Huntsville, Ala. Grotto), and I headed for the Aquismón area to map Sótano de las Golondrinas and Joya de Guaguas. After minor difficulties obtaining burros, we began the long 5 hour hike to Golondrinas. Most of our equipment, including a 1300 foot piece of Sampson 2 in 1 rope, was carried by burros. We arrived at the pit late in the afternoon. Seeing may be believing, but even when looking down the pit,its hard to believe.

The next day Ted and Dick entered the pit each taking about one-half hour to rappel, while Johnathan, Ed and I surveyed the entrance and plumbed the drop with a wire - 1094 feet. The second day, Ed Johnathan, and I rappelled in, surveyed the bottom, and managed to struggle out about midnight.

From Golondrinas we hiked to Tamapatz and then on to Joya de Guaguas, near Tampachal. Since we did not have time to map the pit, we decided only to look at the entrance, and get a few hours headstart back to Austin.

It was then time to go to the N.S.S. convention in Huntsville and Birmingham, Alabama. Many cavers from Austin were there "and a good time was had by all." Needless to say, we saw many fine Alabama caves and enjoyed many late nights and early mornings around the campfire with our friends from all over the country, generous quantities of "labo" furnished by the F.T.A.(F.T.A.is a famous old army saying that goes something like this- farther the army, or further the army, fast the army ... from the brilliant pen of T.R. Evans.) Grotto greatly assisted the campfire "spirits". All who plan to attend future conventions should be sure to take hip boots and plenty of asprin.

The last week of June I spent in west Texas with James Reddell and A. Richard Smith. We mapped numerous caves in Palo Duro Canyon and on the gypsum plain near the Guadalupe Mts.,

where Dick is doing field research for his dissertation.

After returning to Austin for several days, James, Phillip Russell and I set out on a collecting trip in northeastern Mexico. Two weeks and many caves and bugs later, we returned to Austin. Mainly, we collected along the road west of Xilitla, between Ocampo and Gómez Farías, and near Ciudad Maíz. The major caves we explored were Cueva de Portrerillos, near Ahuacatlan, which still has four unchecked twenty-five foot pits droping down to what might be an extensive lower level; a large cave near Ocampo, which has three entrances; and Sótano de el Refugio, whose entrance is about 150 ft. by 180 ft., and which drops free for about 400 ft. on the low side and the high side is about 475 ft.

After recuperating in Austin for a week, T.R. Evans (fresh from the Army), Mills Tandy, James and I left on a four week trip to southeastern Mexico. Our first stop was at the 'spectacular' Grutas de Tonaltongo, which turned out to have a large thermal river running from its mouth. Exploration was impossible beyond a few hundred feet because of waterfalls and the 98 degree F temperature of air and water.

Next we journed to Orizaba and Tequila, where we spent a week exploring and collecting in caves too numerous to mention. Among the better are Sala de Agua Grande, Ojo de Agua Grande and Cueva de la Cascada. We also saw the entrance to the well-known Ostlatl Cani Timova Atl. This beautiful area should be seen by all Mexico cavers.

From Orizaba we went further south to Huautla. Due to some political complications, we did not get to do everything that we had planned, but we did visit several caves and got to know the Presidente better. No major new caves were discovered in the area.

Leaving Huautla, we turned south from Tehuacan onto a really

bad road, but Janes' new Toyota came through. Two days later we finally got to Chiapas where we found some of the best caves of the trip, and sone unusal fauna. Cueva de Zapaluta has a main passage 3000 feet long, averaging 50 feet in diameter, and several side passages. Cueva de Tío Ticho has blind white crabs, but nothing else going for it. We also found two big pits, Sima de Coturra is about 500-600 feet in diameter (the largest known in Mexico) and 250-300 feet deep, but was not explored. Chen sin vil mut is about 300' x 150' and up to 450 feet deep. A river runs across the bottom and emerges from a cave called Mapachero about one kilometer away. The Indians of Chiapas are also very interesting. They seem to be very localized groups and there is a lot of variation from place to place. Finally after four weeks, we were practically pennyless, but had great quantities of bugs and tourist junk, so we came back to Austin.

CAVING IN MAINE

June 25 - August 25

Caving in Maine is mostly a mirage. Most caving time was spent growing old caving stories with fellow spelunker Jim Nunn from Kentucky. Cave leads seemed to be myths: "Why, yes, my father has some on his farm across the lake," which were never checked out. I found but was crowed out of a glacial cave above timberline on Mt. Katahdin during a hailstorm. The cave was already filled with girls I was chaperoning. I believe I set a cave-stuffing record,

The only honest-to-God caves (non-glacial) seem to be on Saddleback Mt., or so says the Maine Mountain Climbing Guide. I forgot my hard hat so made a point of not looking when I climbed it. I did, however, make a point of exploring the subway in Boston, (very cave-like, or so it seemed at the time.)

End of non-caving report. Ya acabo.

Jeannie Wiggins

PACHÓN AREA - JUNE 4 to JUNE 9 [1967]

Phil Sigmund, Eric Remington, Judy Sustare and Dennis Sustare

The four of us piled into Sustare's camper and left Austin about 2 in the afternoon with rope, survey gear, and plans for some heavy Mexican caving. Due to several hours worth of truck trouble, we didn't actually get to Reynosa until about midnight, but we drove on through with lit little incident and got to El Abra by sun-up. After a quick trip into El Abra we had breakfast in Antiguo Morelos and returned to Pachón, where we took a short nap. We then went to Gruta del [de la] Florida to explore and map it. Two main passages leave from the entrance, and Mexicans were engaged in mining the left passage for phosphate while we were there. Scattered pieces of dynamite were sweating in the right-hand passage, encouraging us to go more deeply into the cave. We plotted 13 stations in the right-hand passage, along some 1000 feet of horizontal, joint-controlled walkway, before coming to a pass-division. We stopped mapping at this point and accompanied by three Mexicans followed both passages several hundred more feet apiece to their ends. The left-hand route contained numerous bats, including fruit bats and vampires, in addition to Myotis. The right-hand route leads to a small natural bridge across the passage. Near the junction is a 15 foot pit beside the main passage, beyond which the cave goes on. We did not pass this pit to explore the passage further. The Mexicans said that the passage they were mining extends about as far as the one we explored; we did not go into that passage due to the mining operations.

After leaving the cave we went to El Salto for a swim. All the water has been diverted from the falls for the electric station, and though the scene is still very impressive, it no longer has the beauty it had when the falls was flowing. Many white-throated swifts were in the area. Went on to Valles for dinner and ran into James Reddell's bunch in the Condesa, heard disquieting rumors about US involvement in the Israeli-

Arab war which fortunately turned out to be unturn. The lack of accurate information left an uneasy feeling over us for the rest of the trip, though. Spent the night beside the golf course of the Hotel Taninul and went on in the morning for Tampico. Swimming at Playa Hermosa (a beautiful, isolated, private beach) we all got so sunburned that we decided against any more caving on the trip. So after shopping inT Tampico we went back to valles. visited Sr. Martinez and told him of the loss of the Tinaja map. We recopied the plot of the water passage from his map, and he said he would send a copy of the original map up to Austin.

After leaving Valles, we had intended-to go into the desert around Monclova or Muzquiz, via Monterrey and Saltillo, but in the wee hours of the morning our driver (who shall remain nameless) took a wrong turn in Cd. Victoria and didn't notice his mistake until reaching the route 97 turnoff to Reynosa. We decided to go ahead and leave Mexico at this point, and went on to Rio Grande City for breakfast (where a Ranger eyed us very suspiciously). Thereafter we drove on to Del Rio to take Rick home before returning to Austin the next day. Although we didn't accomplish much caving, everyone had a pleasant trip.

Cave Trip to Del Rio, Texas

Who: Rick Remington; Will Cowan; Pam Morrison;& Donna something.

When: Oct 13, 1967

The trip:

We left Friday about dark or so and made good time all the way to the railroad tracks that are the last railroad tracks before coming to Del Rio. Emediately upon crossing these railroad tracks the right rear tire lost all the air that kept it from going flat and it went flat. Quick change and quick repack and back on the road. Arriving at Del Rio we decided to go across t to Acuña and get the tire fixed. Just as we rolled up to the U.S. custom house the tire went flat again except it was a different tire and we were without spare. Rick and I hiked up the road to a gulf station and fixed the tire while the attendant stood and watched then charged us a dollar and a half. on the way back to the car we were given a ride with a very nice man in a very nice red Oldsmobile with white leather seatcovers.

We put the tire back on the car and split for Lake Walk where we spent the remainder of the night sleeping.

Saturday morning we roared back into Del Rio and had the tire that originally went flat replaiced. (It was ruined by the train road) Then we roared out and went into Sally cave.

Sally cave is a very interesting cave. It has lots of very nice scramble passage. For those of you who dont know scramble passage is passage thats not big enough for stoop way but too big for crawlway so in order to go through it you scramble over and around the muck and cruddy that its filled with. There is also some very nice chimney passage that goes down about 100 feet or so into an underground lake with things swimming in it. Rope might make these chimneys safer to work in but I don't think it would make them any less of a hassel. Tiring of scramdling around in the grunge we left in search of bigger and better things.

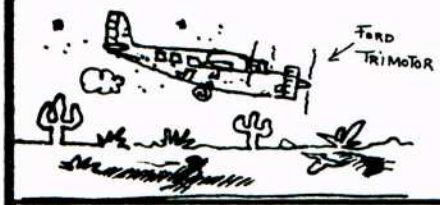
Lo and behold we have been blessed with another flat tire. Moan sigh Why must cavers be plagued with such trying situations. Roar back into Del Rio, fix tire, roar out to Rattlesnake canion.

We spent the remainder of the day at rattlesnake canion looking at the pictographs that some nice Indians had painted there solely for our viewing pleasure. Sometime Saturday night we decided that some iced tea sure would be good and went straight-a-way to Green's cafe and got some. Then we split for home and bath and bed.

Sherriff [Will Cowan]

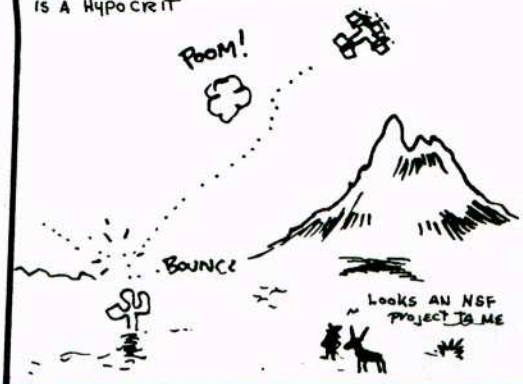
OLD MAN WISDOM AND THE ANTHROPOLOGISTS

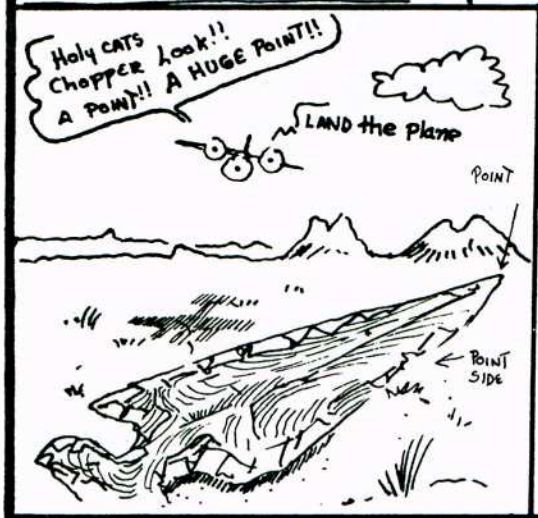
WHEN WE LAST LEFT OLD MAN WISDOM HE WAS IN THE SEWERS OF WASHINGTON D.C. WE NOW SKIP ACROSS THE NATION TO THE INTERIOR OF THE U.T. DEPT. OF ANTHROPOLOGY AIRPLANE HIGH OVER BIG BEND



INSIDE ARE TWO LONGTIME PHD CANDIDATE CHOPPER. CHOPPING TOOL AND L.S.D.B CHIAPPAS

* Editors Note; All THIS IS IN FUN, ANYONE WHO TAKES OFENSE ~~OFENCE~~ ... GETS TEED OFF IS A HYPOCRIT

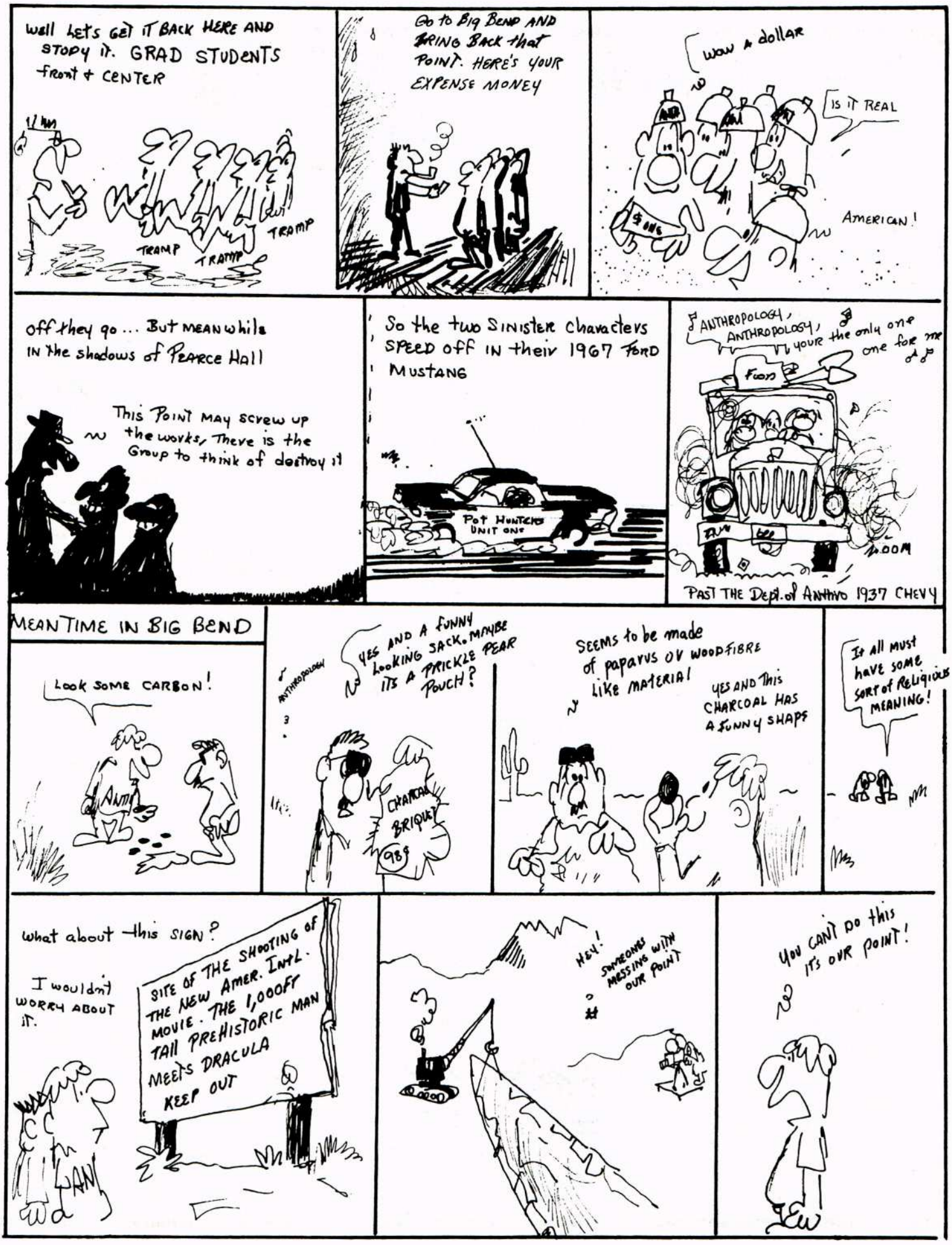




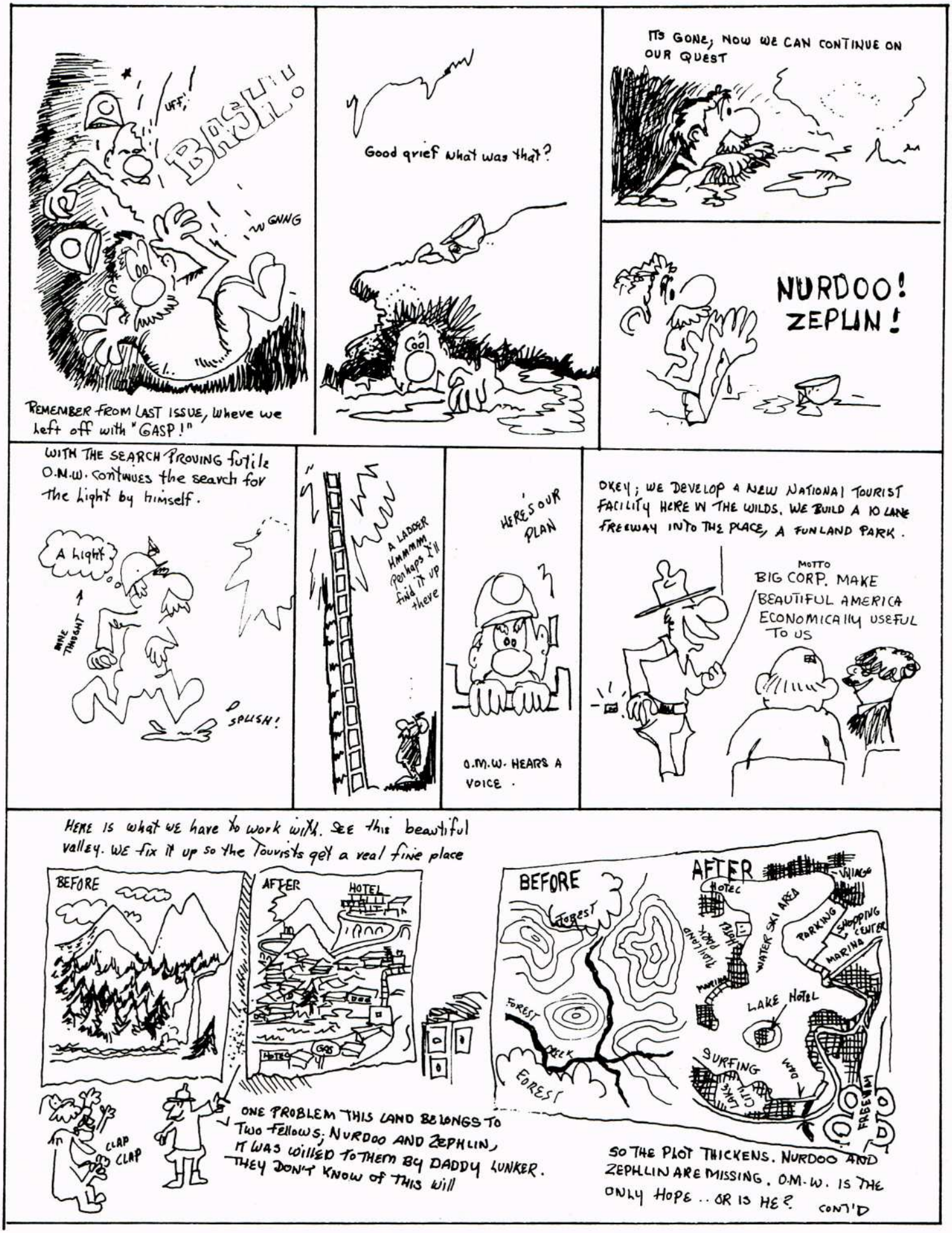
The fantastic find is communicated to Anthro. HQ in Austin. Where it will be placed before a panel of experts

AND IN THE GREAT EXHAUSTED LEADERS OFFICE

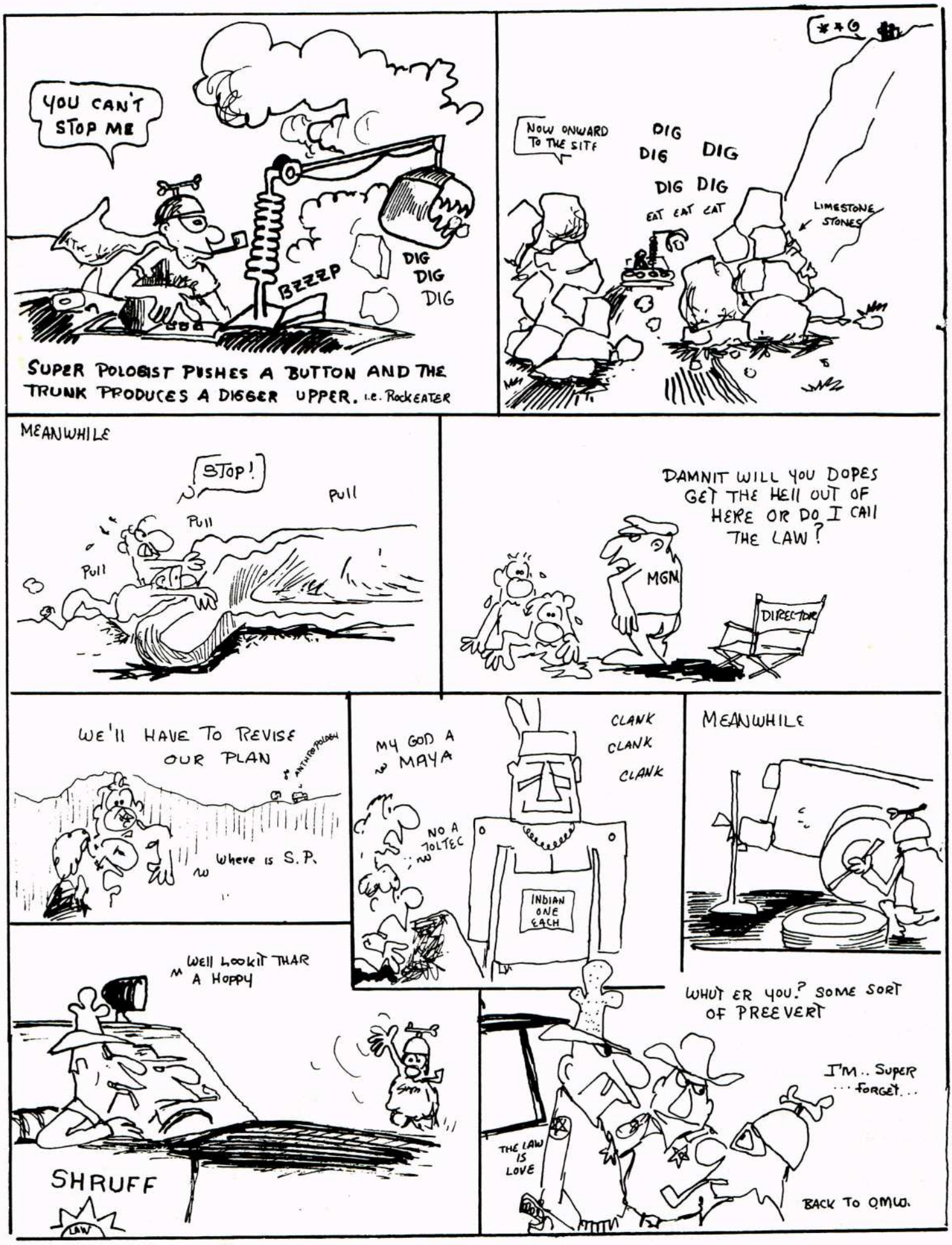
A CONFERENCE IS CALLED


well Let's get it back here and study it. GRAD STUDENTS front + center
TRAMP
TRAMP
TRAMP
Go to Big Bend and bring back that point. Here's your expense money
wow a dollar
is it real
American!
off they go ... But meanwhile in the shadows of Pearce Hall
This Point may screw up the works, There is the Group to think of destroy it
So the two Sinister Characters speed off in their 1967 Ford Mustang
Pot Hunters Unit one
Anthropology, Anthropology, your the only one for me
Foom
Past the Dept. of Anthro 1937 Chevy
MEANTIME IN BIG BEND
Look some carbon!
yes and a funny looking sack. maybe its a prickle pear pouch?
charcoal briquet
98¢
seems to be made of papyrus or woodfibre like material
yes and this charcoal has a funny shape
It all must have some sort of Religious meaning!
what about this sign?
I wouldn't worry about it.
site of the shooting of the new Amer. Intl. movie. The 1,000ft tall prehistoric man meets Dracula
keep out
hey! someones messing with our point
you can't do this it's our point!

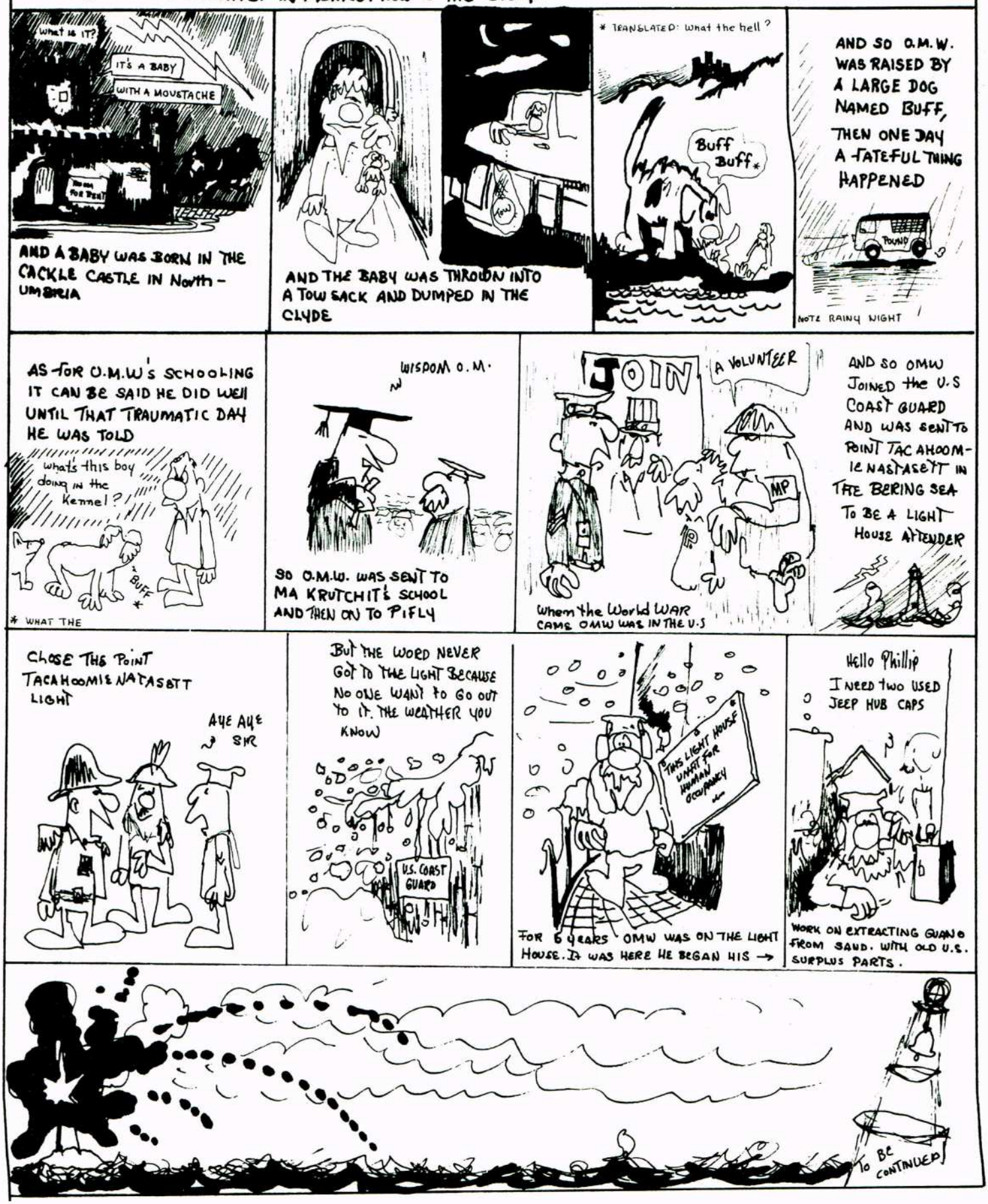
MEANWHILE AT Ludlow's RANCH IN TEXAS
CLUCK CLUCK CLUCK
Now Look here LARRY *
* ALIAS SUPER BOUNCE OR JANEY..
KIRK SAID That 4 ply rated tyres are better than 10 ply tyres CAUSE they don't get as hot....
Lets go
CLUCK CLUCK CLUCK CLUCK
Looks like a typical Texas CAVE John
yes BUT maybe it has some hystopohMA-tomatosIS BUGS that are only found here IN NNE Diaz Ordaz County
Time PASSES
How is it up there ?
It opens upppp
ONWARD CRAWL OUR TROOPS To a fate That they Little IMAGINE A MEETING WITH DESTINY AND THE FATE OF THE world.
GOOD GRIEF
ONE SLIP AND JOHN falls down. DOWN, DOWN, DOWN down, down, down, down
fiddle fiddle
PANIC STRICKEN HE fiddles with HIS UTILITY BELT WHICH IS QUITE MUD INCRUSTED
SPOING !
JAMES Tie off AND LOWER A ROPE
XX
I CAN'T you have the rope
well get down some way. This looks like the biggest TEXAS CAVE EVER
ORION LOOK AT THIS
HEY A. Richard this looks Like the..
AND MEANWHILE IN WASHINGTON


UFF!
BRUSH
GNNG
REMEMBER FROM LAST ISSUE, where we left off with "GASP!"
Good grief what was that?
ITS GONE, NOW WE CAN CONTINUE ON OUR QUEST
NURDOO! ZEPLIN!
WITH THE SEARCH PROVING futile O.M.W. continues the search for the Light by himself.
A light
MINE THOUGHT
SPLISH!
A LADDER HMMMM Perhaps I'll find it up there
HERE'S OUR PLAN
O.M.W. HEARS A VOICE.
OKEY; WE DEVELOP A NEW NATIONAL TOURIST FACILITY HERE IN THE WILDS. WE BUILD A 10 LANE FREEWAY INTO THE PLACE, A FUNLAND PARK.
MOTTO
BIG CORP. MAKE BEAUTIFUL AMERICA ECONOMICALLY USEFUL TO US
HERE IS what we have to work with. See this beautiful valley. WE fix it up so the Tourists get a real fine place
BEFORE
AFTER
HOTEL
GAS
HOTEL
BEFORE
FOREST
FOREST
CREEK
FOREST
AFTER
HOTEL
WATER SKI AREA
PARKING
SHOPPING CENTER
MARINA
FUNLAND PARK
MARINA
LAKE HOTEL
SURFING
LAKE CITY
DAM
FREEWAY
CLAP CLAP
ONE PROBLEM THIS LAND BELONGS TO TWO FELLOWS, NURDOO AND ZEPHLIN, IT WAS WILLED TO THEM BY DADDY LUNKER. THEY DON'T KNOW OF THIS will
SO THE PLOT THICKENS. NURDOO AND ZEPHLIN ARE MISSING. O.M.W. IS THE ONLY HOPE .. OR IS HE?
CONT'D

SO FACED WITH THREE SEEMINGLY INSURMOUNTABLE PROBLEMS. O.M.W RUSHES OUT OF THE CAVE
WE WILL NEED SOME REAL HELP
SPLISH
AND TO HIS SPECIAL TRUCK THAT HE GOT FROM THE GOOD WILL
LIGHT
SQUEEZE
NO DUMPING
CRANK CRANK!
GERMAN ARMY SURPLUS VW TYRES
THE BONE BEAM SHINES
IN FAR AWAY ORDWAY NEW YORK. OLIVER CHIRT WELL KNOWN ANTHROPOLOGIST SEES THE BEAM
? SOMEONE NEEDS ME
GRASPING HIS MAGIC PIPE IN HIS LEFT HAND HE UTTERS THE MAGIC WORDS
* ed. NOTE WE CAN'T PRINT THEM, THEY'RE SECRET
BLEEK!
BAADOOK!
KIZZZTT!
DA DE DUM!
DOWN
SUPER POLOGIST
TROWEL
BRUSH
SLIDE
ROAR
HIGH ON MT. BONNELL THE E.O.
ROAR
RUMBLE!
GOOD LORD
SCREEE
Down the old fire poll slide S.P. into his converted EDSEL. Powered by four VW Engines


YOU CAN'T STOP ME
BZZZP
DIG DIG DIG
SUPER POLOGIST PUSHES A BUTTON AND THE TRUNK PRODUCES A DIGGER UPPER. i.e. Rockeater
NOW ONWARD TO THE SITE
DIG DIG DIG
DIG DIG
EAT EAT EAT
LIMESTONE STONES
MEANWHILE
STOP!
PULL
PULL
PULL
DAMNIT WILL YOU DOPES GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE OR DO I CALL THE LAW?
MGM
DIRECTOR
WE'LL HAVE TO REVISE OUR PLAN
ANTHROPOLOGY
Where is S.P.
MY GOD A MAYA
CLANK CLANK CLANK
NO A TOLTEC
INDIAN ONE EACH
MEANWHILE
WELL LOOKIT THAR A HOPPY
SHRUFF
LAW
WHUT ER YOU? SOME SORT OF PREEVERT
I'M.. SUPER ...forget...
THE LAW IS LOVE
BACK TO O.M.U.

Due to popular demand we are going to tell you OLD MAN WISDOMS OWN STORY. HIS LIFE, LOVES... ETC. It has been a long story. To gather the full facts Phemma went to India, C. Jennings to JAPAN AND I spent the summer IN MEXICO. Now to the Story..



OCT. 12 1967
FROM THE DESK OF OLD MAN WISDOM

TO: THE MEMBERSHIP AT LARGE AND CAUGHT.
SUBJECT THE UTG NEWSLETTER

THERE WILL NOT BE A NEWS LETTER UNTIL THOSE PERSONS WHO HAVE BEEN ASKED TO CONTRIBUTE; CONTRIBUTE. THESE PERSONS ARE

NOTE ALPHABETICAL ORDER →

EB ALEXANDER
J.R. EVANS
MARSHA MERIDITH
M. TURNER
JAMES STRICKLAND
WMN. RUSSELL
A.R. SMITH
JAMES REDDELL
CHAS. JENNINGS
TERRY RAINS
ORION KNOX
CAROL RUSSELL
S. LOVING
ADD: J. FISH → ROONEY
SQUIRE
PLEMMA
WYLER

AS SOON AS THESE PEOPLE GET THEIR DUMB OL STUFF INTO THE EDITORIAL OFFICES OF THE UTG THEN BY ^@$$% WE WILL COME OUT WITH A !''#*^@@@@ &&***