UTG NEWS
THE VOICE OF CAVING IN CENTRAL TEXAS
OR SOME SUCH THING.

THE UTG NEWS,

The voice of supercaving in Austin, is published monthly (or there abouts) by The University Speleological Society, a grotto of the National Speleological Society. However, the UTG NEWS in no way reflects the opinions of the University, or the NSS, or any other responsible group. The UTG NEWS, is distributed free at meetings to members or anybody else that wants one. Out of town subscriptions are $1.00 a year and we exchange with anybody. Compliments and Praise may be heaped upon P.O. 7672, U.T. Station, Austin, Tex. 78712

Editor.....to be conscripted

Production Manager.....Frank Binney

Production Assistant.....Ann Lucas

Art Director.....Charlie Loving

OFFICERS OF THE SOSIETY

Dr. Ernest Lundilius, Faculty Sponsor.....Geo. Bldg.
Frank Binney, President.....295-5491
Craig Bittenger, Vice President.....4534774
Olga Reyes, Secretary.....Who knows??
Logan McNatt, Librarian.....452-3497
Bob Stockton, Treasurer.....Quien Sabe?
Ron Ralph, Expedition Chairman.....451-2975
Pete Strickland, Equipment Chairman.....4523497
Bill Russell, Cave Consultant.....472-7541
Bill Bell, Chuckwagon Chairman.....837-0518

TABLE OF CONTENTS

What's it all about.....page 2
Calcite preview of things to come.....page 3
True Tales of Caving Adventure.....page 4
Equipment.....page5

COVER: Fatigue shows on the face of an Austin caver during a grueling 18 hour push past the end of the "Y" survey in Austin Caverns.

PRINTED BY THE TORTILLA PRESS

[September 1973]

WHAT ITS ALL ABOUT

Speleology (as aspiring laymen call the study of caves) offers a wide range of subjects to even the most diverse of interests. Perhaps the most obvious is the excitement of exploring a cave passage never before entered by a human being. Other, perhaps more subtle, satisfactions lie in studying cave geology, biology, cartography, and photography. Most cavers, which ranchers and journalist refer to as "spelunkers", have interests in all of these areas.

The University Speleological Society (sometimes referred to as the University of Texas Grotto by persons unfamiliar of the Board of Regents Rules) is a local chapter of the National Speleological Society. It also has suspected ties with other, equally notorious, underground groups such as the Texas Speleological Association, the Association for Mexican Cave Studies, the Fem-lib God's Little Grotto, Inside Earth Publications, etc., etc. The club meets on the first and third Wednesdays of the month at 7:30 PM in old Physics Bldg. 121. The meetings are informal, usually include a program, discussion of previous caving, and planing for future caving.

Cavers are fanatically conservation and ecology conscious when they are underground, even though some have been caught driving Oldsmobiles and eating at MacDonald's while on the surface.

> Cavers never break or remove mineral formations from caves nor do they disturb animal life for non-scientific reasons. Writing your name on walls is considered a super bad no-no along with littering or disturbing and changing a cave in any way.

Getting along with landowners is a necessity for caving in an area like feudal Texas so consequently long lived cavers always get permission to enter any cave.

More info on what caving is all about can be gotten from real live cavers who can be found in area caves, or in the Chuckwagon at noon, or at generall USS meetings. A booklet entitled, "A Introduction to the Exploration of caves, etc." is available free of charge at these meetings.

WELCOME PETER!

The UTG NEWS is proud to welcome Peter Sprouse to the Austin caving community. Currently the "fastest man on a rope in the whole world", Peter is rumored to be slowly approaching Austin from West Virginia in a broken down Dodge Power Wagon.

TRUE TALES OF CAVING ADVENTURE

For this month we have a really neato story, by Craig Bittenger, about AMCS cavers recovering the remains of a poor farmer who was swallowed up by 240 foot pit that formed rather suddenly in a cornfield. Unfortunately Craig's exciting account seems to have been temporarily misplaced during recent unrest at the offices of Inside Earth Publications so we'll just have to wait until next month to find out all the gory details.

EQUIPTMENT

Generally speaking, there are two ways to go about getting equiptment besides borrowing it from naive cavers. You can buy it from a store in town, which is convenient but sometimes more expensive, or you can buy it by mail; which is usually chesper but involves a long wait. If you're the impacent type or just want to be able to see what you're buying beforehand, Austin offers the following establishments.

Academy Surplus, 4103 Interregional. "Academy is headquarters for all outdoor gear" and also for alot of slipshod merchandise. Lots of goodies, like Viet Nam boots, amoung the crap but let the buyer beware.

Red Wing Shoe Store, 5504 Burnet Rd. Carries the Vasque line of hiking and mountain boots and Al Sikora, the manager, knows more about fitting boots(which is critical) than any other Vasque dealer in town.

Whole Earth Provision Company, 24th street next to Les Amis. Has the most complete stock of wilderness oriented gear around and the people are experienced and enjoy talking. They stock certain types of specialized climbing gear and have alot of books on cave related subjects.

If you're the patient type and like to save money, or need equiptment not available in Austin, here are some mail order sources.

The SpeleoSupply, Phil Winsborough [illegible] 96[illegible]. Bill will order stuff for you through various places like the REI Co-op.

Bob & Bob, Box 2[illegible]4, Hammond, Ind. 46[illegible]. These are two cavers who have stockpiled brass justrite lamps and also gear like helmets, parts, etc.

Don Davis, Box 25, Fairplay, Colo. 80440. Donald sells the brass, british made Premeir Lamp that many people feel is superior to the late justrite.

The Speleo Supply Service, Box 2096 Pasadena, Ca. 91105. [illegible] offers alot of specialized equiptment at ridiculous prices. Furnace, etc.

CALCITE PREVIEW OF THINGS TO COME...

September 5 (Wednesday) ..... **Party Time! after the general meeting at the Russell's, 708 W. 30th**
[1973]

September 8 (Saturday) ..... **Cavin' Time! meet at the fountain in front of the Geology Building.**

September 11 (Monday) ..... **Work Time! walk around in circles and drink beer at Speleo Press Night on 33rd St.**

September 16 (Saturday) ..... **More Cavin' meet by the Geology Fountain.**

September 20 (Wednesday) ..... **Meeting Time! 7:30 P.M. in old Physics Bldg. 121**

September 23 (Saturday) ..... **Still more Cavin' Call "Dial-a-Trip" for more details.**

September 25 (Monday) ..... **Work Time again. Talk about caving as you coalate at Speleo Press Night.**

September 30 (Saturday) ..... **even more cavin' Get the facts from Dial a Trip.**

September 1-31 (Everyday) ..... **Lunch Time. Sit in at the the Caver's Table, 12:00 noon in Frank Erwin's fabulous Chuckwagon.**

DIAL-A-TRIP

If you want to go caving, want to know what's going on, or just want somebody to talk to, call UTG's "Dial-a-Trip". Dial a trip numbers for this month are

451-4774 ask for Craig
451-5453 ask for Bunnie
472-7541 ask for Bill

TRIP REPORTS

There ain't none. During the summer Austin cavers crawled in holes from British Honduras to California to Canada but that was over a week ago. Who remembers??? Hopefully cavers will write reports about [illegible] before [illegible] O.K.?