

Who was Edie Smith?

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In August 1967, Edith Smith died. A short time later, during a Australian Speleological Federation [ASF] committee meeting in Orange [NSW], a resolution established the "Edie Smith Award" in order to:

1. Perpetuate the memory of Edie Smith.
2. Give recognition to those who have made an outstanding contribution to Australian speleology.[Anon. 1968a]

The Award is now considered to be one of the most prestigious in Australian speleology. On average, only one Edie Smith Award is conferred per year, with presentations made every two years, during the course of an ASF Conference. [Anon.1968b]

At least three speleological features have been named in her honour, Edie's Treasure in Tasmania's Exit Cave, Edie's Grotto and Edie's Tunnel in the Punchbowl and Signature Caves at Wee Jasper in NSW.

The first presentation of the Edie Smith Award took place during the 9th. ASF Conference [NIBICON] in December 1972 when Dr. Aola Richards and Ted Lane received an award for their joint editorship of "Helictite" since its inception in 1962, which had by that time, achieved international acclaim as one of the world's top five speleological research journals.

Over the years, the preamble to the presentation of the Edie Smith Award has been embellished to include the facts that she had been "...a pioneer of Australian speleology, a life member of the Tasmanian Caverneering Club and the first woman president of an Australian speleological society, the Canberra Speleological Society."

Why was Edie considered a "pioneer"? What had she done to motivate people to name bits of cave after her during her lifetime or shortly after her death? What contribution could a person have made that warranted the creation of a prestigious national award when she was possibly only well known in one state and territory? Who was Edie Smith?

Unfortunately, most of those who knew Edie have either themselves died or moved away from speleological circles. Edie herself was a very private person and so little is known of her early and personal life. Throughout her life in Tasmania, Edie was known by her proper name of Edith. When she moved to Canberra in 1955, her name apparently became shortened [by some] to Edie. The following biography will reflect this name change only where appropriate. The biography itself has been pieced together from scant published material and recollections - both personal and anecdotal. It is by no means complete.

Edith Margaret Smith was born at Forth [about 9km SW of Devonport], northern Tasmania on 14th August 1913, daughter of Salina Kathleen (nee Carruthers) and [Major] Ronald Edgar Smith. She had a younger brother, Ronald - and later, two half-brothers. Edith's mother died of cancer at the early age of 28, shortly before her husband could return on compassionate leave from World War One. Edith was then a little over three years old. Her brother Ronald and one half-brother (Charles), outlived both Edith and her father.

Edith's family was already known throughout Tasmania. James "Philosopher" Smith, Edith's grandfather, was a noted mineral prospector in western Tasmania whose principal achievement was the discovery of the world's richest deposit of tin at Mt. Bischoff in 1871. Mt. Bischoff

[785m] is 50km SW of Burnie. He later received a stipend for his services to the colony and sat in the Legislative Assembly before his death in 1897 [Blainey 1967]. Her father Ronald [1881-1969] was also born in Forth and served with the 26th. Battalion at Gallipoli, and on the Somme during the First World War, being wounded in both theatres [of war]. He also contracted paratyphoid and Spanish flu whilst serving during the war [Anon. 1969]. He is probably best known for his interest in the Cradle Mountain region and friendship with Gustav Weindorfer who built the Waldheim Chalet near Cradle Mountain in 1912, "The Major" was also a local historian and spent part of his latter years sorting and indexing his father's records. He may also have been the first person to take a motor vehicle into Waldheim Chalet - a 1926 Chevrolet. It is believed that Major Smith donated his diaries to the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery at Launceston [Farrow 2000]. However, the collection, made up of 90 hand-written volumes dating from 1906-69 [NS234] is now housed in the state archives. [Goede 2000] Edith's mother also had an association with Gustav Weindorfer and Cradle Mountain, most likely being the second woman to reach the mountain's peak [Gustav's wife being the first, a year earlier] in January 1911 [Bergman 1959], when she was 21 and shortly before she married into the Smith family.

Virtually nothing is known of Edith's early life, except that she grew up around Forth and the family property across the valley from Waldheim, was educated in Launceston and the Collegiate College [Hobart], became an active member of the Girl Guides and after completing her education, was employed as a governess on properties in rural Tasmania including a period with the Shoobridge family at Bridgewater, now an outer suburb of Hobart. As far as is known, only two photographs survive of her during this period. They were taken by her father near their beloved Cradle Mountain during March 1939 when Edith was 26. [Plate 1]

At this stage in her life, Edith would have been firmly entrenched in what was considered the stereotypical female role of the period. There would have been little opportunity or encouragement in male-dominated Australia to take up professions other than those of nurse, typist, governess or shop assistant. But, as fate has it for some, opportunity was just around the corner. In late 1939, the world went mad as the European and later, the Pacific war erupted. With little hesitation, Australia joined the fray.

Whatever the reason, patriotism, opportunism, or perhaps a bit of both - Edith, like thousands of other Australian women and girls locked in similar situations, seized the initiative, threw her old life aside and began another. Edith went to war!

Edith enlisted as an airwoman in the Women's Auxiliary Australian Air Force in Hobart on March 27, 1942. Her application form was a hand and rubber-stamped modified airman's enlistment form [PP48] and she indicated that she was prepared to serve anywhere and in rough conditions. Normally camera-shy, Edith had to face the camera for the obligatory "mugshot" and, despite the contrast, graininess and backdrop of the time, the resulting picture is probably one of the best portraits ever taken of her. Looking to one side of the camera, Edith seemed to be facing the future with a certain amount of apprehension, clad in a floral dress - in stark contrast to her later dress preferences. [Plate 2] The enlisting officer described the green-eyed 28 year old as having a "quiet, pleasant manner, clean and sensible" while her trade test found her "suitable as a trainee cook."

Thus, Aircraftwoman Smith, Edith Margaret, #92151 was inducted into Australia's war effort and less than two months later found herself posted to Victoria as a cook, firstly at Toorak, then Point Cook and later, Ballarat. Edith served in Victoria until May 1944, being promoted to the rank of temporary corporal during April 1943 and corporal five months later. During her tenure as a cook, Edith possibly learnt the priceless phrase recounted many years later to CSS member Fred Douth "If it's brown it's burnt, but if it's black - it's bugged!" [Douth 2000].

In May 1944, Corporal Smith was posted to Ascot Vale, [near Perth] Western Australia where she undertook a cinema operator's course. This new role ultimately took her to air force bases located

in areas such as the wheatbelt town of Merredin and coastal port of Geraldton. Her service record described her character as "very good" and work proficiency as "satisfactory". No charges for misbehaviour were ever laid against her, her Conduct Sheet [P/P 8] being marked "Certified No Entry" for each service area.

The Second World War officially ended with the signing of the surrender documents at Tokyo Bay on 2 September 1945. Edith's service with the RAAF ended with her discharge at the end of November [29th] the same year with 34 days pay in lieu of leave. However, it was a very different Edith, civilian, who arrived back in Tasmania a short time later. With a matured and liberated outlook on life, Edith faced the post-war world with renewed vigour, confidence and determination. Gone were the days of being a lowly governess! At the age of 32, Edith resolved to make something of herself!

At the beginning of 1946, Samuel Warren Carey [of wartime "Z" Force fame] became the foundation professor of the recently re-established Geology Department at the University of Tasmania. During September of the same year, Professor Carey founded the Tasmanian Caverneering Club [TCC] the membership being drawn mostly from the University's Geology Department, Tasmanian Field Naturalists Club and the Hobart Walking Club. TCC thus became the first organized speleological society in Australia.

During 1947, armed with a scholarship under the Commonwealth Reconstruction Training Scheme, Edith, no doubt following an interest in geology instilled by her famous grandfather, enrolled in a science course at the University of Tasmania, taking her first formal instruction in crystallography "... in an old cottage with a sinuous floor." She completed her BSc degree, majoring in geology and zoology in 1949 and graduated in 1950. During her studies and being amongst people engaged in speleological pastimes, Edith herself was drawn into their activities and became a member of TCC in 1948. After her graduation, she continued working for the geology department as a research assistant, studying Tasmanian Permian bryozoa* [Anon. 1968c]. Edith also worked for an unknown period between her graduation and 1955 with the Tasmanian Department of Mines [Smith 2000] although all records of her employment with the Department were destroyed in 1986. [Bacon 2000]

At or around 1950, Edith bought a car, a dark coloured Morris Minor. Cars were not very numerous during this period of Australia's post-war reconstruction, so it quickly became a caving transport and driver education vehicle. But this was a Morris with character! At a time when just about everything on a vehicle apart from engine, gearbox and brakes were "optional extras", this Morris didn't have a cabin heater but DID have a soft-top that was far from windproof. So, if you went caving with Edith during the frequent Tasmanian cold spells, you didn't just pack your warm clothing - you wore them! Edith affectionately dubbed the vehicle "Morris The Horrors"!

A young 18 year old Albert Goede went on his second caving trip [to Wolf Hole at Hastings in March 1954] with Edith in the "Morris The Horrors" and felt the name quite apt, especially as he was prone to suffer from car sickness on what was, at the time, an extremely windy road. Albert, his siblings and mother were "adopted" by Edith following the death of his father in a motorcycle accident several months later. His mother and siblings returned to The Netherlands the following year, leaving Albert to be influenced by Edith to pursue an interest in geology - a distinguished pursuit that has lasted beyond his recent retirement.

Another of Edith's travelling companions was Allan Wells, latterly of the Australian Geological Survey Organisation, who was studying geology at the University of Tasmania while Edith was undertaking a study of fossil corals. He needed a driving licence so that he could conduct field work as part of his forthcoming Honours thesis. Edith taught him to drive the "Morris the Horrors", up and down the windy Sandy Bay Road and he has vague recollections of the linen roof flapping in the breeze, even though he didn't always travel in top gear due to the twisting nature of the road. Their paths were later to cross again in Canberra where he became involved

with her various tunnelling activities - but more on that later.

As one of the few female members of TCC, Edith blossomed in what was to become Tasmania's golden age of speleological discoveries. What she lacked in stature and stamina, she made up in sheer drive and determination.

At Hastings [south of Hobart], the downstream sections of Newdegate Cave, which included the Binney Chambers, were originally explored via a sump that was rarely dry. The Binney Tunnel, in which Edith played a major role, was dug between 1948 and 1951 to provide an all-weather access to the Binney Chambers. The project was successful but did not however, lead to any major discoveries.

On another Hastings trip in 1954 Edith, despite her small stature [1.66m x 52kg (5'5.5" x 114lbs) in 1942], clearly demonstrated her belaying abilities when she accompanied a party of four to Wolf Hole. The underground party was made up of Bob Geeves, Albert Goede, West Australian Bill Gilbert and a Scottish traveller on an extended working holiday who was to feature in another incident elsewhere three years later, Jim Cartwright. Edith elected to remain on the surface and belay. Bob Geeves led the party that discovered Lake Pluto in the further reaches of the 2km long cave. Weighing more than 80kg, Bob had recently suffered from a bad case of the flu and didn't realize that he had not fully recovered. Hours later and after he had climbed about halfway up the 30m entrance pitch, he suddenly weakened, lost his grip on the [electron] ladder, and fell. Despite he being 30kg heavier than Edith, she arrested his fall, undoubtedly saving him from serious injury. After resting on a convenient but narrow ledge, a very grateful Bob continued the climb out. [Goede]

As a result of her geological and zoological training, Edith developed a keen and long-term interest in the fossils, bone deposits and fauna found in caves. It was around TCC campfires that Edith developed her legendary recital skills and recollections of her famous grandfather. Albert remembers that she "... was a proud Australian and interested in poetry. On caving trips when sitting around the fire at night she used to read poems by Banjo Patterson, Henry Lawson and Rudyard Kipling." [Goede]

Taking advantage of her acknowledged organizational skills, TCC elected Edith to its committee from 1951 to 1953. In 1953 she became treasurer and in 1954, vice-president.

Apart from her speleological and Girl Guide activities, Edith had other interests. During 1953-54, she was a participant in a re-enactment of Sir John Franklin's remarkable 1842 pioneering journey from Hobart Town to Macquarie Harbour. She was also a keen gardener. There was also one other facet to Edith; she had a dog - Mutch. Mutch was a faithful Border Collie cross-breed, apparently renowned for his pungent doggy smell - to which Edith seemed blissfully oblivious.

November 1954 saw the establishment of the Canberra Speleological Society [CSS], largely as a result of the temporary disappearance of one Brian O'Brien [later Dr.] at Yarrangobilly Caves in December 1953. Dr. O'Brien would later become the first president of the Australian Speleological Federation [ASF]. As circumstances would have it, CSS began as a small, all-male society that would, within a year, change. CSS would remain a small, though close-knit and productive society for many years.

As 1955 progressed, Edith seemed to be getting a bit restless and during the year, accepted a position with the Bureau of Mineral Resources [BMR], in Canberra. The Bureau had recently lost many of its personnel to the private sector due to the beginning of Australia's first "mineral boom". [Harrington 2000] The BMR is now known as the Australian Geological Survey Organisation [AGSO].

Edith resigned her vice-presidency at a TCC committee meeting during August and such was her

standing [within TCC], they elevated her to Honorary Life Member then and there, the first member of the club to be so honoured. [Anon. 1967a] "No Citation was made. Things were kept simple in those days." wrote Albert Goede in personal communication. Throughout the lifetime of TCC, several honorary life memberships were created, notably Professor Carey, Dr. Albert Goede and Brian Collin to name a few.

A short time later, Edith - Mutch - and "Morris the Horrors", set sail for Canberra. If the previous few years had been TCC's golden age of discovery and Edith's blossoming as a speleologist, the following five years would see her attain seemingly legendary status, dimmed only by the fading memories of the few remaining long-term members of CSS and the dispersment and passing of former CSS members and BMR colleagues who knew her.

Edith arrived in Canberra and took up residency in the Hotel Acton, a government hostel on the edge of what was to become Lake Burley Griffin and where pets were forbidden. It is known that Mutch spent most of his time inside with Edith both here and at her subsequent "pet free" residence, the Currong Flats. How this subterfuge was achieved, given the pungent odor of Mutch, is open to speculation. While at the Hotel Acton, Edith and Mutch would hike to the top of Mt. Ainslie every morning before she left for work. [Young 2000] Edith's later residence was also noted for its legions of pot plants. With windows taped to control the amount of sun entering the rooms, Edith grew potted plants by the score, some to be given away as presents to all and sundry, along with horticultural advice, the empty spaces then replaced by more plants. [Cox, Galbreath, Lynga, Young 2000] This once prompted CSS member David Purchase to comment that a jungle knife was needed when visiting Edith. [Lynga] Many of her pot plants were still brightening the Currong Flats long after her departure in 1961. [Young 1967]

Edith started her career with the Bureau of Mineral Resources [BMR] as a stratigraphic indexer, embarking on "her pioneering work on the index of stratigraphic names, when it was an index of 3 x 5 inch [75 x 125mm] cards." [Jones 2000]. This index still exists! [Harrington] The library was then housed in a wooden Army hut. She also went on to compile summaries on the sedimentary basins of Australia and the Lexicon [dictionary] of the Stratigraphic Names for Tasmania and subsequently Queensland, Victoria and Western Australia. After some spirited internal wrangling, she was allowed to join CSS, becoming their first female member, although several more would swell the ranks shortly thereafter.

Before her BMR career began however, her preference in clothing brought her into conflict with the male-dominated structure prevailing in geological circles at the time. Hardly a catwalk model, Edith always wore slacks, much to the consternation of management. The Chief Geologist was forever telling Edith to wear "more suitable clothing" at work. Edith steadfastly refused to wear anything but slacks. [Bartlett 2000] She was, according to Evelyn Young, "a very firm-minded lady!" [Young]

It appears that very soon after arriving in Canberra, Edith dispensed with the services of the drafty "Morris the Horrors" in favour of a light-coloured Morris Minor Estate Wagon. There is no evidence that it acquired a nickname but with its distinctive external wood trim, the Morris quickly became a readily recognized and dependable caving vehicle, the only drawback being Mutch. Mutch went just about everywhere with Edith, to the distress of her many passengers. Mutch's combined doggy smell and bad breath often left passengers feeling quite ill by the time they arrived at caving or hiking destinations. [Galbreath, Ryan 2000]

Shortly before Edith's arrival in Canberra, CSS had made its first foray [October 1955] to Wee Jasper, a small caving area situated some 45km WNW of Canberra requiring a journey of approximately three times that distance to reach by road. Here Edith was to later spend a lot of time working with the late Joe Jennings and other members of CSS in the exploration and surveys of a number of caves, especially the Dip and Punchbowl Caves.

Some of Edith's early energies at Wee Jasper during 1956-57 were spent digging in Dogleg Cave, a dangerous cave prone to flash flooding. A lot of digging was frequently undone when flooding refilled the dig sites. The Second Watertrap was eventually opened for a brief period during a dry spell in late 1957 and Edith was one of the few to explore beyond before yet another flood filled the traps. On another trip to Wee Jasper during June 1957, it was Edith who found the long sort-after connection between Dip 4 and 5. That wrote Joe Jennings, "was an exciting moment!!" [Jennings 1957, Lynga 2000] [Plate 3]

At some stage during early 1957, Edith visited the Naracoorte caves [South Australia] in company with Elery Hamilton-Smith, then secretary of the fledgling ASF. They had driven across from Melbourne for a short visit. While at Naracoorte they met up with Jim Cartwright, now joined by his brother Don, who was also on a world-wide working holiday. The two Scottish brothers had just returned from the 1956-57 Nullarbor Expedition where they had gained notoriety for their daily habit of waking everybody with bagpipe music. The encounter took place in a cave where Edith caught one of the brothers [presumably Jim] running his hand up and down a stalactite. In an early example of active conservation, she hit him quite hard on his helmet with her geological hammer whilst saying "Now I hope you'll remember not to touch decoration!" He apparently learnt his lesson very well! [Hamilton-Smith 2000] "If it was Jim, Edith would have known him well enough to get away with such an action." [Goede]

Once again, when it came to vertical pitches, Edith demonstrated her belaying prowess. David Purchase reflected that "I first met Edie when I joined the Canberra Speleological Society shortly after I arrived in Canberra in May 1957. My first real memory of her was when I climbed a ladder out of one of the pitches of the Dip Cave at Wee Jasper to find, on reaching the surface, that the lifeline had been under the control of what I thought was a rather frail-looking lady. This was a matter of concern to me as I doubted she would have been able to prevent me from finishing up as a messy heap at the bottom of the pitch had I fallen off the ladder. It did not take me long however, to realise that Edie was one of the most competent people anyone could wish to have on the other end of a lifeline. Indeed, Edie and I subsequently spent a great deal of time at opposite ends of a lifeline which she always ensured was never too tight and never too loose. As Joe Jennings commented in his little note (Jennings 1967) - 'When lifelining, nothing would distract her and she was extremely sensitive to the message of the rope.'" [Purchase 2000] while Fred Douth remembered that "Of all the people on our trips, Edie was the only one that I trusted most on the end of a rope tied around me." [Douth 2000]

Of all Edith's exploits, perhaps she is most widely known for the excavation through the rockfall between the eastern end of the Pitch Chamber of Punchbowl [Cave] and lower level of Signature Cave, an initiative of CSS members Jim Webb and Don Fitzsimon. The passage, approximately 10m long, was dug during 1957-58 and greatly facilitated exploration of Punchbowl, which prior to that, was only accessible by a vertical entrance. This connection attracted numerous names throughout its lifetime ranging from simply "The Tunnel", "Edie's Squeeze" to "The Dame Edith Smith Memorial Highway". It was here that Allan Wells briefly re-enters the story. Freshly graduated from the University of Tasmania, he joined the Bureau of Mineral Resources and was a member of CSS from 1957 to about 1959. He subsequently spent numerous weekends at Wee Jasper excavating various cave connections and while assisting Edith with the Punchbowl/Signature dig, came closest to "succumbing to claustrophobia!" [Wells 2000]

There were not many enthusiastic diggers in CSS at that time, so Edith often continued the dig alone. [Cox 2000] However, digging teams at various times comprised not only of Allan Wells, but also David Purchase, Ron Galbreath, Margot Cox, Cedric Pratt, Jim Webb and others. Shortly after completion of the tunnel, the youngest Galbreath daughter, then only 3 months old, was passed howling through the connection. [Galbreath] The link greatly assisted David Purchase with his research into bat migration and Edith's zoological and exploration interests. Bone deposits were to be found in sediments throughout Punchbowl Cave and Edith, often accompanied by Barbara Ryan, sifted the dirt and methodically recorded her finds. [Ryan 2000] Unfortunately,

the existence of the passage ultimately became public knowledge and "... an increasing number of undesirable people gained entry to Punchbowl Cave and the cave was being despoiled. As a result the tunnel was blocked in September 1966." [Purchase]

While continuing the survey work in Punchbowl Cave, Edith undertook another dig in a passage beyond the Far Chamber and broke into a small chamber now known as "Edie's Grotto". [Jennings 1964] Her survey traverse and outline plan of Punchbowl Cave was completed shortly before she left Canberra. [Anon. 1961a]

Edith was drawn to people affected by family disruption. This has already been shown by her "adoption" of Albert Goede and his family in Tasmania following the death of his father. In Canberra, she "adopted" Ron Galbreath [amongst others] when he arrived from Tasmania during 1958 and moved into the Hotel Acton prior to beginning work at the Mt. Stromlo Observatory. By the time his family arrived three months later, she had already introduced him to caving at Wee Jasper and then promptly took the rest of the family "under her wing" and introduced them to caving too!. But Edith seemed to have a special affinity with children, and "was renowned for her expertise in leading groups of school children through the caves" [Wells]. She kept a library of children's books and storybook records at her flat and gave book vouchers as birthday presents [Galbreath, Smith K. 2000]. Being a friend of Tasmanian [children's book] author Nan Chauncy, Edith once gave Mary Galbreath an autographed copy of one of Nan's books. [Galbreath]

Edith also doted on her two nephews, bringing them to Canberra, along with the son of one of her Launceston friends, during school holidays on at least two occasions, taking them caving at Wee Jasper and visiting Taronga Park Zoo in Sydney, staying at the home of Pauline Lynga's [nee Hiscox] parents. [Lynga, Smith K.]

By 1958 there were several female members of CSS although, still being a relatively small club, its affairs were conducted in a casual, simplistic and most enjoyable manner. [Plate 4] As a person who disliked formality, Edith vigorously opposed CSS having a constitution, a situation that existed until long after she returned to Tasmania. [Ryan] Having already served in several committee positions with TCC, there was no great surprise when Edith was elected president of CSS. "We are quite satisfied that no club member thought it significant that Edie or any other woman member should be president, nor would it have made any difference to the club had we been told we had the first woman president of an Australian caving club. This is not to detract from Edie's personal significance in our club - she was indeed a driving force, respected, trustworthy and liked by all. She was able, totally reliable, unselfish, never afraid to speak her mind, and even-tempered. She was our mate!" [Young] Edith also played an "important role in simply bringing CSS together. She was outgoing and personable - she was very patient with people." [Lindsay 2000] By his account, she had to be - he was another person she taught to drive! As ground-breaking as her appointment was, Edith only served one term as president although she went on to become secretary in 1960.

Edith briefly returned to Tasmania in December 1958 as an attendee of the 2nd. ASF Conference, held in Hobart. Her visit was memorable not for the Conference itself but rather for what happened immediately after. In what was to become a classic five-day, post-conference field trip to Exit Cave with Edith as co-leader, the party not only spent two days trying to find the cave, but another two thrashing their way back through the dense vegetation to civilization! Only one day was spent in this magnificent cave. The party started to cut a track on the way out, one that was completed by members of TCC about 2 years later. However, with more energy than bush sense, the chosen route took them over the highest part of Marble Hill so that visiting the cave by this route would still be an epic journey! This experience in geographical embarrassment no doubt deeply influenced Edith - and caused her to strongly champion the proposal to cut a low-level track to Exit Cave from a different direction several years later.

During 1959, Edith became concerned about the despoliation of popular picnic sites around

Canberra and started a cleanup campaign that pre-dated similar efforts of Ian Kiernan [Clean Up Sydney Harbour/Australia/World] by some 30 years. One weekend in particular, she took Mary and Martin Galbreath [then aged 11 & 8] on a cleanup of nearby Pine Island, returning to Canberra with the back of her station-wagon full of litter. [Galbreath] A photo-journalist from the Canberra Times heard of the campaign and interviewed the trio at Edith's flat with some of the debris. The child-loving and camera-shy Edith made sure the children featured in the picture and story rather than herself. [Anon. 1959]

Contrary to many accounts published between 1967 and 2000 in the "ASF Newsletter", its successor, the "Australian Caver" and no doubt elsewhere, Edith did not remain in Canberra until 1963. According to the "ASF Newsletter" #12 [Anon. 1961b] "The Very Latest" #7 [Anon. 1961a] [and personal recollections of David Purchase], Edith, whose position within CSS was whimsically listed as "Tunnelling Officer - Edith Human-Mole Smith" at a time when the society had only one "ordinary member", left Canberra in mid-1961. [Anon. 1960] The position of "ordinary member", another whim, was usually voluntary in order to facilitate periodic co-opting.

During the latter part of 1960, Edith applied for an appointment with the Tasmanian Department of Mines and was obliged to undergo a medical examination. This examination revealed that she had breast cancer - at a time in medical history when the survival rate from any form of cancer was not exactly high. Edith underwent mastectomy surgery at the Canberra Community Hospital [Canberra's only hospital at the time] shortly after. Only her closest friends knew that she had undergone this emotionally and physically painful surgery. But in Edith's case, this surgery proved not to be curative. She tried to make light of the resultant surgery with impish comments such as "I know I had two when I came here!" and "I never had any use for them anyway" [Galbreath, Lynga, Ryan, Young] As she recovered from her operation Edith learnt that her application to the Department of Mines was successful and so made preparations with assistance from the Youngs and others, to leave for Tasmania.

As her preparations progressed, Edith invited an unknown number of friends to her flat so that they could choose a memento from her belongings. [Cox, Ryan] Barbara Ryan chose a small hand-made vase that still graces her kitchen window sill while Margot Cox re-lives memories while using her chosen "Edie Smith Memorial Mixing Bowls". One of Margaret Galbreath's last memories of her visit was Edith suddenly giving her a good-bye kiss "... which surprised me a lot as it was unlike Edith." [Galbreath] Barbara Ryan also received a kiss when she and her husband visited Edith during their Tasmanian honeymoon in January 1966. It was as if Edith had a premonition that she would never see her friends again.

Prior to her departure and at their March [Anon. 1961a] meeting, Edith was made a life member of CSS - the first and possibly the only person to be so honoured by CSS until fairly recently when Neil and Carol Anderson were also presented with honorary life membership. [Brown 2000] At a farewell party in mid-April at the home of Evelyn and Graham Young, Edith was presented with a "portable cave" made from cardboard and a life-size portrait of herself in caving gear captioned "VOTE 1. EDIE - THE DOGLEG DIGGER", a relic of her term as CSS president [Young]. The photograph was reportedly the work of CSS member Ed. Slater, a professional wildlife photographer. Shortly after this party, Edith quietly left Canberra for the last time. The ever-faithful Mutch went too.

Back in Tasmania, Edith - now classified as a geologist, which pleased her greatly - began work as a publications officer for the Mines Department in Hobart. However, according to Albert Goede, she was rarely well enough to go caving again. To further add to her woes, sometime during 1964-5 [Goede], Edith was diagnosed as suffering from adrenal cancer which, following an adrenalectomy - meant taking cortisone for the remainder of her life. [Ammer 1982]

The records of TCC are virtually non-existent for this period of the 1960's, so there are few written accounts of Edith's movements. One confirmed appearance was at the marriage of Albert

and Therese Goede in February 1964. When Edith returned to Tasmania, in keeping with her love of children, she recorded stories for the blind children of Hobart up to the time of her death. The last one was reputedly a rendition of Norman Lindsay's "Blinky Bill". [Smith]

While in relatively good health, Edith was involved in digging a tunnel in Junee Cave [near the town of Maydena], one of the major resurgence caves that drains the Junee-Florentine Valley. The tunnel was attempting to bypass the cave's sump but was unsuccessful. The sump has since been penetrated a short distance by diving, breaking into open passageway.

During 1965, she took part in the trip to Lune River that began cutting the long-awaited low-level access track to Exit Cave. The track ultimately passed through dense forest, sword-grass plain, swampland, crossed streams and utilized overgrown timber fellers' tramways before reaching the cave - but Edith was to see little of this. With dogged determination, she led the party into the bush until she was utterly exhausted. "It left her grey with fatigue and she almost collapsed." wrote Goede. [pers. comm.] Edith took no further part in the project although she maintained a keen interest in the track's progress. The completed track provided quicker and easier access to the cave, and Edith rejoiced as best she could with other members of TCC at news of each exciting discovery.

On what became known as "Black Tuesday" in February [7] 1967, the southern part of Tasmania endured one of the worst bushfires ever to be visited upon Australia, [Anon. 1975, 1993] rivalling that of Victoria's 1939 "Black Friday". The wildfires penetrated the suburbs of Hobart to within 3km of the city centre with winds of 160kmh and moved across a front of 145km further south down the east coast. Before the fires were brought under control, 62 people had lost their lives and more than 4,000 made homeless. The devastation south of Hobart was immense, with eight towns almost completely destroyed. The relief effort required was just as immense, and Edith responded too, loading her vehicle with groceries, spare blankets and clothes and distributing them amongst the effected residents of Kingston and other southern towns. [Smith]

A few months before her death, Edith committed herself to leading a party of scouts on a cave introductory tour of King George V Cave at Hastings. Why she did this, given her deteriorating health, is unknown. Perhaps she was merely refusing to give in to the attack from within. As Joe Jennings [1967] was to aptly write shortly after her death "If she urged anyone on to more effort, it was chiefly by example, not by precept."

Shortly before her death, about ten members of CSS managed to set up an inter-state teleconference call of questionable legality in order to cheer their friend's disposition [Cox, Galbreath, Young]. Imagine their dismay as they tried to explain to an angry Edith the reasons behind the closure the previous year of her precious tunnel connecting Signature to Punchbowl Cave. Eventually Edith calmed down as she realized the damage that was being caused by casual cavers using the tunnel to enter the Punchbowl caverns. However, all too soon the allotted time was up and this was the last contact they had with their caving friend.

Edith's condition steadily worsened as the cancer spread further through her body although she doggedly continued with her work, refusing to give in to the pain and lethargy sapping her strength. Indeed, the 1968 Departmental Bulletin of the University of Tasmania's Geology Department revealed that she was still working on the morning of her death. Edith Margaret Smith died of cancer on the 29th of August 1967 at the home of a friend in Launceston. She was just 54. As was her wish, her body went to medical science.

A month after Edith died, a small, well decorated side passage discovered in Exit Cave the previous March, was named Edie's Treasure in her memory. A commemorative plaque was installed soon after. [Anon. 1967b]

One of the most rewarding aspects in researching this biography of a person who died more than

30 years ago, was the receipt of many unsolicited but glowing testimonials to Edith's professionalism, both geologically and speleologically. Two, by former colleagues of the Tasmanian Department of Mines are of particular relevance to Edith's nature and so are recounted here at length, "... Her time was mainly spent on editorial duties and she was responsible for publication of all the department's technical reports and bulletins for the 1961-67 period. ... I spent some time during slack periods as a cadet officer organising the foreign language collections at her request. These had never been catalogued and in her absence were not even recorded. She felt I could learn a lot [I did] as well as arrange the collection.

She took a great interest in those of us who were new and young geologists and worked mightily to see we improved our language skills. All those who had to slide a document past her could attest to her skills, pedantry and knowledge. We all managed an argument at some stage but always without acrimony and with a sense of involvement and fun. Her wide experience and knowledge was always apparent and she commanded great respect and affection. She was, often, brutally frank but honest and was a fine teacher. I have never forgotten her, or her kindness.

I knew she was ill and often in great pain in her last few months as we worked through two bulletins of mine. She never spoke of it, never gave in to it and insisted upon business as usual with the same spirit. ..." [Dr. David Leaman, Leaman Geophysics 2000]

"I first met Edith Smith when I joined the Tasmanian Mines Department as a raw honours graduate from the University of Tasmania in early 1962. I had just finished my honours on the "Structure and Petrology of the Raglan Range", and the Geological Survey, then under the direction of the late Ian Jennings, decided they would like to publish it as a Bulletin. I was told that the document did not require technical review, but just to get it ready to submit to the Editor Edith Smith. I was aware she had a reputation of being a willing but tough editor who had the habit of slaughtering people's poor manuscripts.

I did a literal cut-and-paste job on the thesis [no word processors in those days], had it re-typed, and proudly gave it to Edith. I recall she beamed a little wryly when presented with the document, and said something like "I will work on it young man, and then get back to you." Two days later she summonsed me and said "This is a pretty good manuscript, but let me show you how I have made it better." The manuscript was copiously covered in red, where the editor's scalpel had been at work, but not to the extent of major surgery. She demonstrated the techniques of putting polish on a manuscript - such as pruning unnecessary words, avoiding repetition and ambiguity, crafting good sentences, and structuring logical paragraphs to produce a manuscript that was both appealing and satisfying whilst still engendering a personal style. I greatly appreciated her approach. She was a consummate writer herself who led by example. That mentoring served me well throughout my career. I have gone on to write many geo-scientific articles that happily did not attract the editor's incisions in every sentence. I have edited manuscripts of other aspiring writers, and have imparted the wisdom of Edith to my geologists - who have appreciated it to the same extent that I did.

In about 1960, Edith also compiled the Lexicon of Tasmanian Stratigraphy - a booklet that collated and defined all the formally defined stratigraphic names and terms according to the new draft of the Australian Code of Stratigraphic Nomenclature. She was the custodian of Tasmanian geo-nomenclature, and all later writers still conform to those procedures. I was recently reading Rick Wilkinson's "Rocks to Riches" and came upon a reference to her stratigraphic lexicology work in the 1950's." [Dr. Dennis Gee, Director, NT Geological Survey]

EPILOGUE

And so Edith Margaret Smith died in 1967 but, as shown above - in many respects she lives on. She was a pioneer in Australian speleology and conservation as well as being the first woman president of any Australian speleological society. In many respects, she was also a pioneer

feminist, before the term was really coined, pushing open doors never before opened by women, and before there were feminists to follow her through. But has she or the award named in her memory been treated well in the intervening years? In some aspects Edith and the Edie Smith Award have not been treated with the respect they quite rightly deserve. Indeed, it now seems likely that those who championed the creation of the Edie Smith Award and the accepting ASF executive of the day, neglected to inform her immediate family of their resolutions. [Smith]

When Edith died, she seemingly slipped into obscurity almost straight away. Certainly an obituary was published in the *Speleo Spiel* [Anon. 1967a], *The Very Latest* [Jennings/Young 1967] and the *ASF Newsletter* [Anon. 1967c & Anon. 1968d] shortly after the event [albeit inaccurately] but once the Award was established during 1968, mention of her quickly faded. Why was this? Could it have been that she died of cancer at a time when cancer was an almost taboo subject throughout Australia? Or was it a generational thing? Old stalwarts fading away to be replaced by younger members who had little or no knowledge of Edith Smith or what she represented? They in turn being replaced by even younger members with absolutely no knowledge or interest of past events.

As has been shown, CSS, taking pride that Edith was their first female president, and the first female president of any speleological society for that matter - forgot - and forgot quite quickly it seems - that they had also elevated her to honorary life membership back in 1961. With the publishing of CSS's 40th. Anniversary issue of the "The Very Latest" [Vol. #11] in 1994, Edith - and Dr. Joe Jennings [himself another great speleologist] hardly rated a mention, and then, only in trip report summaries.

And what of the Award itself? By association, the Edie Smith Award suffered a similar fate - at least until fairly recently. Disdain may be too harsh a word to describe presentations of earlier times but certainly the Award and some of its recipients suffered a certain amount of indifference, especially when there was little or no tangible evidence of an award being made.

But, despite its past treatment, the Edie Smith Award has prevailed. It HAS become one of the highest accolades in the speleological community and to be placed alongside previous recipients and Edith Smith herself is a great honour indeed.

And yet, resurgence of interest does occur. Periodically, the question IS asked - "Who was Edie Smith?" But who could provide an answer? The details of the life of Edith and many of her equally deserving contemporaries were, and in many instances still are, locked away in numerous libraries and recollections in various parts of the country and indeed, the world, effectively lost to everyone until people take the time and effort to probe, collect and collate the material into meaningful and presentable text.

As mentioned earlier, this biography of Edith Margaret Smith is incomplete, it may always remain so, but hopefully, it has at least gone part of the way to answering that question: "Who was Edie Smith?"

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This biography was a major undertaking of research and writing that took more than 18 months to complete. Tracing former members of the Canberra Speleological Society, Bureau of Mineral Resources [AGSO] and Tasmanian Department of Mines [MRT] was an arduous task involving more people than just the co-authors.

To this end we have a multitude to thank [many un-named] including: Cathy Brown of CSS and AGSO who provided the first of many contacts from both organizations, the developers of e-mail and programmers who subsequently worked out the sub-routine commonly referred to as

"AllStaff", successfully employed by officers of AGSO [Kathy Nelson], WA Geological Survey [unknown] and Mineral Resources Tasmania [Carol Bacon & Greg Dickens] to cast our search-net far wider than we could possibly have imagined.

Andrew Chalmers of the National Archives of Australia rates a special mention for facilitating free access to Edith's war record once her service number was known.

Alexandra Farrow of The State Library of Tasmania also helped by providing information of Edith's early caving life and insights about her father.

We also thank Wayne Tyson of SRGWA for computer enhancement and digitizing the accompanying photographs and numerous other SRGWA members who endured reading through various revisions of text. Thanks are also due to John Murphy of the Centre for Microscopy and Microanalysis, The University of Western Australia, for further computer enhancing and layout assistance.

However, special thanks are reserved for the many respondents listed under "Personal Communications" who took the time to reminisce or probe a period of more than 30 years, put those remembrances to paper then suffer numerous, seemingly inane questioning, questions whose answers led to supplementary questions and in some cases, sudden, late night phone calls when the tyranny of time zones were forgotten. Thank you all once again for your tolerance!

Edith Smith was a truly remarkable person - the time for even part of her story to be told was long overdue.



Arthur Clarke

Ian Binnie, Norm Poulter and Vicki Bresnan at Bathurst

APPENDIX A

Edie Smith Award - list and summary of recipients

NOTE. The summaries below reflect the recipients at the time of their award, while any title listed is their current status.

1972 Dr. Aola M. Richards - For her work in the study of glow worms in New Zealand caves and as co-founder and co-editor of Australia's first speleologically-based scientific journal, "Helictite". Dr. Richards also researched and wrote "An ecological study of the cavernicolous fauna of the Nullarbor Plain, South Australia" [J. Zoology, London 1971]. [Adapted from ASF Newsletter #59 and elsewhere]

1972 Edward A. Lane - Received his award for being a leader of many early cave exploration expeditions, a speleo-author and co-founder and co-editor of Australia's first speleologically based scientific journal, "Helictite". [Adapted from ASF Newsletter #59]

1974 Professor Joseph Newell Jennings [1916-84] - A speleologist prior to arriving in Australia from England in 1952, Joe was one of the founders of CSS [1954] and the ASF [1956]. He became the second ASF president [1958-60]. His contributions to speleology are given by the volume of his writings: books, reviews and substantial popular articles on karst account for about half of his 200 scholarly publications. His book "Karst" [1971] and its successor "Karst Geomorphology" [1985] are still pertinent club library reference acquisitions. Joe's studies ranged all over Australia and the world. He firmly believed in and practised a partnership between academic researchers and cavers, his wise counsel guiding many speleologists of all persuasions to greater achievements. He was regarded overseas as a symbol of Australian speleological excellence. [Condensed from ASF Newsletter #72, 102, 105 and Karst Geomorphology]

1976 Professor Elery Hamilton-Smith - [Fellow of the ASF 1974] - Originally a member of the CEGSA and foundation secretary of the ASF, he later moved to Victoria where he was a foundation member of both VCES and SASS but later initiated their amalgamation into the VSA. He helped instigate early Australian caving expeditions to the Nullarbor, New Guinea, New Caledonia in addition to the exploration of many other areas in eastern Australia. Elery's major contributions to speleological research have been in systematic exploration and documentation, especially cave biology where his interests include the collection and description of invertebrates particularly beetles and studies of cave dwelling bats. His publications on cave biology are extensive and in particular it is his interpretations of the significance of cave biota and the encouragement of others which has contributed to the high international standing which Australian speleological research enjoys.

1978 Benjamin Nurse - A half-line announcement in the ASF Newsletter #83 belies Ben's contribution to speleology. A longtime president of the Sydney Speleological Society, Ben has been the driving force of SSS since its inception in 1954. He was one of two signatories to the letter that led to the formation of the ASF in 1956 of which SSS was a foundation member. Ben played a leading role in the conservation campaigns working to save the Bungonia Caves, bringing the region into the public arena, despite some opposition, to help protect the regions. He was part of the SSS team that produced the "Bungonia Caves" book, a mammoth but comprehensive undertaking designed to assist the "KEEP BUNGONIA GORGEous" campaign. [Adapted from Australian Caver #152 and elsewhere]

1980 John R. Dunkley - John's award was recognition for his extensive speleo-writings, administrative work within the ASF and participation in several early expeditions, particularly to the Nullarbor Plain. He has written numerous articles on historical, economic and conservation aspects of cave usage. He co-edited the "Caves of the Nullarbor" [1967] and edited "The

Exploration and Speleogeography of Mammoth Cave, Jenolan" [1971]. As a driving force behind the SRC, he has participated in and contributed to the production of several other publications. He has visited many cavernous regions of Australia and overseas but his main interests remain Jenolan, Wombeyan and the Nullarbor Plain. [Compiled from ASF Newsletter #71, "Caves of the Nullarbor" and elsewhere]

1983 Vince Kinnear - Vince became interested in caves shortly after he and his late wife arrived in Chillagoe in 1959 to run the post office and telephone exchange. He commenced the exploration and restoration of Royal Arch and Donna Caves. A result of this work was his appointment as honorary ranger of the then unmanned National Parks of the region. This was later converted to a permanent position. Vince established contact with other speleologists throughout Australia and assisted their exploration of the Chillagoe area. He presided over the inaugural meeting of the Chillagoe Caving Club in 1973. [Condensed from Australian Caver #98]

1983 Dr. Kevin Kiernan - A geomorphologist by training, Kevin's award acknowledges his multitude of general and technical papers on Tasmanian karst. He has worked tirelessly for the conservation of karst and other important regions, firstly as an individual, then secretary of the Lake Pedder Action Committee and finally in 1976, as the founding director of the Tasmanian Wilderness Society. During 1976-81, he rediscovered the 20,000-year-old Aboriginal sites in caves on the Franklin River that contributed to the region being protected within the Wild Rivers National Park. [Compiled from "Lake Pedder" and elsewhere]

1985 Dr. Albert Goede - For services to cave exploration and scientific studies of caves. He was involved in the exploration of many Tasmanian caves and karst areas. His scientific interests included the collection of cave fauna from Tasmanian caves and a study of their geographical distribution. He also initiated hydrological studies and water tracing in the Ida Bay and Junee-Florentine areas. His examination of a bone deposit in Beginners Luck cave led to the discovery that aborigines had lived in the Florentine Valley under ice-age conditions some 21,000 years ago.

1987 Barry Loveday - Awarded for dedicated service and leadership, over many years to the cause of high-quality cave surveying projects in Western Australia. This was largely a family affair that is still continuing. Not content with just producing detailed cave maps, Barry undertook an even more ambitious project, that of area surveys, a series of scaled topographic sheets [of the Leeuwin-Naturaliste Ridge in the first instance] stretching several metres, superimposed over cave outlines indicate possible trends and extensions. His work has also inspired other generations of cave surveyors. [Adapted from Australian Caver #118 and elsewhere]

1988 Dr. Julia M. James - [Certificate of Merit 1983] - Julia descended on the Australian caving scene from England in 1965. She received her award for distinguished contributions to the standing of Australian speleology, within Australia and overseas, in both sporting and scientific fields. Among her numerous achievements, she was one of the pioneers of vertical caving and cave chemistry, has led or co-led major caving expeditions to New Zealand, Mexico, Australia and the remote highlands of Papua New Guinea. She has also produced a succession of first-class publications and inspired numerous fellow cavers and colleagues. [Adapted from ASF Newsletter #71, Australian Caver #119 and elsewhere]

1993 John Bonwick - [Certificate of Merit 1984] - John has made a continuing contribution to speleology over a long period of time. He has been involved in many leadership roles, introducing potential cavers to the best and highest standards of caving leadership and practice; has acted as a moderating influence, (described as a "ballast") on the NSW caving scene and pioneered the photo-tagging of cave entrances. He is also known for the commercial development of electron ladders during the 1960's and the design and fabrication of other specialised speleological equipment. [Adapted from Australian Caver #133 and elsewhere]

1993 Ernst Holland - Ernie is one of the most creative and innovative cave managers of Australia. He has been a driving force in vastly improving caver/management relationships at Jenolan and other areas, much more than most cavers realise. Ernie played a major role in the formation of the Australian Cave and Karst Management Association [ACKMA], was its foundation president and as such, worked strongly for good relations with the ASF. As a caver, Ernie has been involved in discoveries at Jenolan, the NSW sandstones and elsewhere. [Condensed from Australian Caver #133 and elsewhere]

1995 Brian Finlayson - The award was made in recognition for his work in Australian karst research, pivotal role in encouraging and supporting karst investigation by others and in linking professional research with club-based speleology. Brian was a member of UQSS in the 1960's and VSA since 1979. His leading research has included the study of underground streams in granite rocks and the synthesis of the geomorphology of the Buchan karst. His commitment to promoting the exchange of ideas in speleology includes organisation and participation in several karst workshops. [Condensed from Australian Caver #138]

1995 Dr. Grant Gartrell, Dr. Rod Wells - This joint award specifically recognised their roles in the discovery, interpretation and preservation of what is now known as the Victoria Fossil Cave at Naracoorte, SA. The Fossil Chamber was first entered in 1969. Grant and Rod recognised the potential value and significance of the site and were active over many years to ensure its protection and proper management. The site has since proved to be one of the most significant accumulations of Pleistocene sub-fossils in the world and was given World Heritage status in 1994.

Rod has continued to lead and co-ordinate research on the fossil deposit and has been widely recognised as making a major contribution to our understanding of the Pleistocene period in Australia while Grant continued his passion for exploration and discovery of new caves. Grant also played a leading role in the exploration of the Sellicks Hill quarry cave and efforts to preserve it. [Condensed from Australian Caver #138]

1997 Dr. Robert Armstrong Osborne - The award was made in recognition for his contribution to Australian karst research, especially the evolution of NSW cave systems and in particular, the Jenolan System. Recognition is also given for his assistance given on numerous occasions to cavers involved in conservation campaigns and to raising public awareness of the importance of cave studies.

1997 Neil Anderson - Neil began his caving career in the early 1960's although it was only after he and his wife Carol moved to Canberra that his activities expanded. He has been involved in exploring areas such as Wee Jasper, Coolemen Plain, Yarangobilly, Wyanbene and Bungonia as well as further afield in Tasmania, Northern Territory, New Zealand and Thailand. His negotiating skills established sound relationships with Northern Territory land managers. A past president of CSS, amongst other committee positions, Neil is perhaps best known for his long-term role of CSS Equipment Officer and co-host of weekly get-togethers lasting nearly 20 years that contributed greatly to club cohesion. [Condensed from Australian Caver #149]

1999 Henry Shannon - [Certificate of Merit 1982] - An intellectual force in speleological matters virtually since the beginning of his caving career with the Sydney University Speleological Society in 1959 and continuing with the University of Queensland Speleological Society from 1963 still going with the Northern Caverneers [Tasmania] since 1981. He has made contributions in documentation, exploration, mapping, hydrology and conservation efforts in all Australian states, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea, but most particularly, he is one of those who bled over the conservation battles of Texas caves, Bracewell and Mt. Etna writing up much of the earth science components that supported the conservation cases.

1999 Norman Poulter OAM - [Certificate of Merit 1993] - The award was made in

recognition for his long-standing contribution to research, conservation, restoration and management of caves and karst in Western Australia. His photographic skills have contributed to permanent displays in three museums, illustrated books, magazines, promotional and educational literature as well as public talks on cave conservation. He raised awareness of cave fauna in all cave systems and the need to protect them. An advocate of track marking, he manufactures low-cost track marking materials for distribution throughout Australia. [Condensed from presentation addresses and elsewhere]

Abbreviations

ASF	Australian Speleological Federation Inc.
CSS	Canberra Speleological Society Inc.
CEGSA	Cave Exploration Group South Australia Inc.
SA	South Australia
NSW	New South Wales
SASS	Sub Aqua Speleological Society
SRC	Speleological Research Council Ltd.
SSS	Sydney Speleological Society Inc.
VCES	Victorian Cave Exploration Society
VSA	Victorian Speleological Association Inc.
UQSS	University of Queensland Speleological Society.

Acknowledgment is given to John Dunkley, Dr. Albert Goede, Lloyd Robinson, Henry Shannon and Nicholas White for their assistance in the compilation of these summaries.

APPENDIX B

Publication list - incomplete

1. Irving, S compiler, Smith, E compiler, and Walker, J compiler, 1958, Sedimentary basins of Australia: a glossary of nomenclature.: Bureau of Mineral Resources, Geology and Geophysics. Record, v. 1958/80. 35 p.
2. Smith, E M, 195?, Lexicon of Oceania: Bureau of Mineral Resources, Geology and Geophysics, Canberra. Contributions covering New Guinea, Bismarck Archipelago, Solomon Islands and certain other islands.
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- 1967 Blainey, G. "The Peaks of Lyall" 3rd. edition. Melbourne University Press. Aus 67-2016 pp 12-16.
- 1967 Jennings, J. "Edie Smith" The Very Latest Vol.3, #3 September/October, pp 1-2.
- 1967 Young, E. & G. "Edie Smith" The Very Latest Vol.3, #3 September/October pp 2-3.
- 1968a Anon. "Minutes of ASF Committee Meeting", Orange NSW, Jan. 27-29.
- 1968b Anon. "The Edie Smith Award" ASF Newsletter #42 pp 3-4.
- 1968c Anon. "Departmental Bulletin" Geology Department, University of Tasmania pp 25-26 * The "Bulletin" makes mention of Edith working on Permian polyzoa but Dr. H.J. Harrington (2000) [formerly of AGSO] maintains that the term should be bryozoa as it is firmly entrenched in common geological terminology.[polyzoa and bryozoa are synonyms. Both are used in geological literature CEB ed]
- 1968d Anon. "Edith Smith" ASF Newsletter #42 pp 2-3.
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- 1973 Anon. "Sundry Notes" ASF Newsletter #59 p. 2.
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- 1983 Ammer, Christine "The A to Z of Women's Health". ISBN 0 89696 173 7 pp 25-26
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- 1994 Cooper, B.J., Branagan D.F. eds "Rock Me Hard ... Rock Me Soft" A history of the Geological Society of Australia Incorporated. ISBN 0 909869 89 8 page 69
 1996 Wilkinson, Rick "Rocks to Riches" The story of Australia's national geological survey. ISBN 1 86448 009 2 page 229

PERSONAL COMMUNICATIONS -

- 1999 Goede, Dr. Albert Member, former Tasmanian Caverneering Club Inc.
 member Southern Tasmanian Caverneers Inc.
 2000 Bacon, Carol, Managing Geologist, Industrial Mineral & Land Management Mineral Resources Tasmania [formerly Tasmanian Mines Department].
 2000 Banks, Dr. Max, Geology Dept. University of Tasmania [retired].
 2000 Bartlett, Margaret, Former co-worker, Bureau of Mineral Resources, ACT.
 2000 Brown, Cathy, Member CSS, geologist Australian Geological Survey Organisation
 2000 Cox, Margot, Former member CSS.
 2000 Dickens, Greg, Technical Officer, Industrial Minerals & Land Management Mineral Resources Tasmania [formerly Tasmanian Mines Department].
 2000 Douth, Fred, Former member CSS, formerly Bureau of Mineral Resources, ACT
 2000 Farrow, Alex. Librarian, State Library of Tasmania.
 2000 Gee, Dr. Dennis Former co-worker Tasmanian Mines Department. Currently - Director, Northern Territory Geological Survey.
 2000 Galbreath, Margaret & Ron, Former members of CSS
 2000 Goede, Dr. Albert, Member, former Tasmanian Caverneering Club member Southern Tasmanian Caverneers Inc.
 2000 Hamilton-Smith, E. Prof., Victorian Speleological Association Inc.
 2000 Harrington, Dr. H.J., Formerly of Bureau of Mineral Resources, ACT.
 2000 Jones, Dr. Peter, Former co-worker, Bureau of Mineral Resources, ACT.
 Currently - Dept. of Geology, ANU.
 2000 Leaman, Dr. David, Former co-worker, Mines Dept., Tasmania.
 Currently - Leaman Geophysics [Tasmania]
 2000 Lindsay, Dr. John Former member CSS. Currently - Research School of Earth Sciences, Australian National University.
 2000 Lynga, Pauline, Former member Sydney University Speleological Society, Canberra Speleological Society
 2000 Purchase, David, Former member of CSS.
 2000 Robinson, Lloyd, Illawarra Speleological Society
 2000 Ryan, Barbara, Former member of CSS
 2000 Smith, Kenneth, Edith Smith's nephew. [son of Ronald]
 2000 Smith, Ronald, Edith Smith's brother.
 2000 Wells, Allan, Former student, University of Tasmania, former co-worker, Bureau of Mineral Resources, former member CSS.
 2000 Young, Graham & Evelyn Former members of CSS, formerly BMR staff (Evelyn)

All source material used for the compilation of this biography will be deposited in the ASF Library.

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