

NIBICON
FIELD BOOK
JENOLAN



THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

N I B I C O N
LOG B O O K
R E P O R T S

DECEMBER 1972 - FEBRUARY 1973

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PREFACE

- The Time? Christmas-New Year 1972/73.
- The People? Experienced speleologists from throughout Australia, New Zealand and New Guinea gathered together for the largest ever convention.
- The Name? NIBICON, or the Ninth Biennial Conference of the Australian Speleological Federation.

This publication is the logbook of field trips of the Conference, primarily at Jenolan, but it also contains some trips to Colong, Tuglow and Abercrombie.

Written at the house at Hampton, these reports include the by now epic discovery of Twiddly-Om-Pom, in Mammoth Cave.

"Ian (Lewis) managed to get down a tight hole in the rock-pile (on the Eastern side of Great North Cavern).....The river could be clearly heard on the other side of this block, and this spurred the fearless trogs on to dig under the boulder. The gravel and mud were scraped out with hands and boots." (A.J. Pavey)

Apart from the enervating, knee-skinning, backbreaking, muscle-wrenching pushes up the North Tunnel, a myriad of other activities were undertaken also. "Glennzdig" in the Oolite Cavern seems particularly promising, and could yet lead to the "vast unknowns of the Woolly Rhinoceros regions". Wiburds Lake Cave was also the centre of much research, and a full Grade 6 traverse of the cave was completed!

Historically, these documents are very important, and represent the most intensive period of speleological activity ever seen at Jenolan. These are presented in their unedited form, as they characterise the feelings and personalities of the time. We take the opportunity to commend the principle of field trip documentation at all Conferences.

It is hoped, also, that the proceedings of the Conference itself may eventually be published.

Randall King
Bruce Welch
November, 1975.

No.1

MORPHOLOGY PARTY TO WIBURDS

30.12.72

PRESENT: P.Radcliffe(L), Cris Parr, Wilfred Mentick, Cris Fisher, Joe Jennings, Dave Lowry, Glenn Hunt, Jean Wigley, Leslie Mackay.

A general look at the Western Passage to Neddys Knock and the Aragonite Formation. After some familiarisation with some aspects of the cave, all returned to the surface. Trip time, 3½ hours.

P. Radcliffe

No.2

WIBURDS LAKE CAVE - MORPHOLOGY NOTES

30.12.72

The following points are worth noting:

- (1) Fault controlled passage beautifully indicated by faulting 4 dyke. Joe Jennings would like a photograph of this if someone will send it.
- (2) Cave has an overall phreatic appearance.
- (3) New dyke noted in Neddys Knock. Broken dyke rock can be seen on floor (right up top I think) and a little searching reveals the dyke.

Glenn Hunt

No.3

GEOMORPHOLOGY AND HYDROLOGY IN SERPENTINE CAVE

31.12.72

PRESENT: P. Downes, Joe Jennings, Glenn Hunt, Dave Lowry.

To investigate geomorphological and hydrological relationships in cave. Joe and Glenn stopped at 1st squeeze while Peter and Dave investigated part of the mud slope and passage up to the second squeeze and reported back on the nature of the passage. 3 hours spent, mainly in the morning.

P. Downes

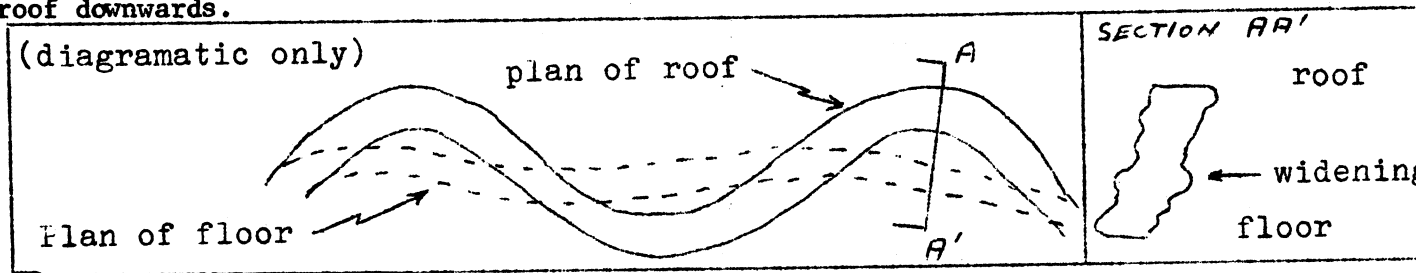
No.4

SERPENTINE CAVE - GEOMORPHOLOGICAL NOTES

31.12.72

The following points of interest were noted and would need to be explained if a morphological history of the cave is constructed.

- (1) Serpentine cave not controlled by structure (bedding and jointing). Presumably the primary cavity was.
- (2) The amplitude of the serpentineous "waves" in the passage decrease from roof downwards.



No.4 (contd.)

- (3) In cross-section (see AA') the walls are not straight but bow in and out in sympathy producing a series of wide and narrow levels.
- (4) Sections of the roof are remarkably flat (in a context of steeply dipping bedding).
- (5) Window at roof level cuts across tight "meander" at the first squeeze.
- (6) Yellowish clay underlies fine gravels of floor.
- (7) Presence of small-scale scalloping near floor but not above.

Glenn HuntNo.5MAMMOTH-TRIP TO OOLITE CAVERN31.12.72

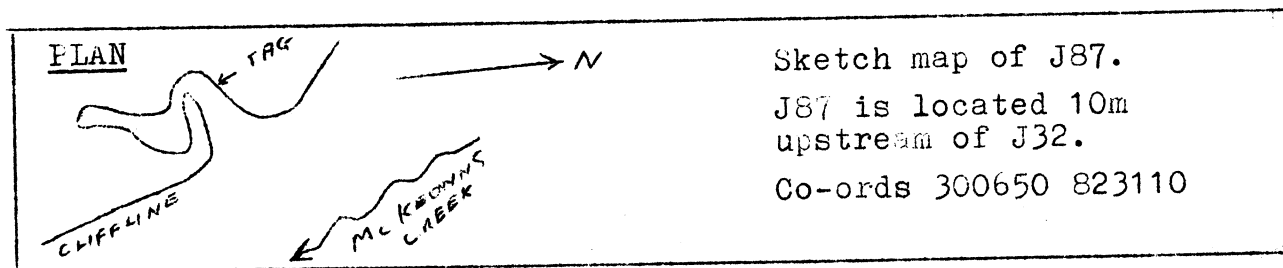
PRESENT: Peter Downes, Phil Toomer, Bruce Denney, and others?

Abseiled mammoth pitch and buggerised around, to find the 40 ft drop. Descended, visited Lower River. We went to Oolite and I went up to Upper Oolite with Derek Barchow and Ron Murry to photograph. Looked for the arragonite crystals but did not see them. Descended and joined the digging party for a few hours. Left the cave and watched Jim jumar out taking many minutes to do it while two people ascended the ladder from the combined party while he did it!!!

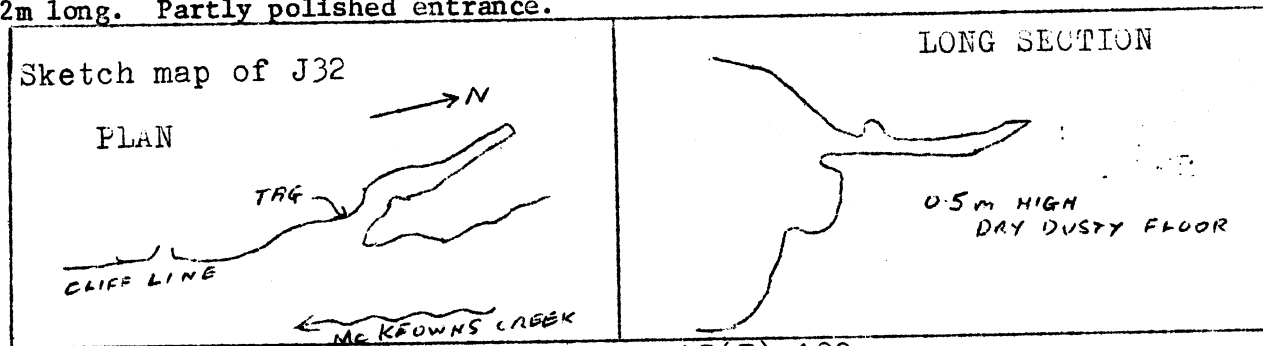
P. DownesNo.6EXPLORATION PARTY: LOWER MCKEOWNS CREEK31.12.72

PRESENT: Andrew Pavey, Bev Riley, Alan Rogers.

Visited J.32 - Approx. 6m long 0.5m high - ends in formation choke. Tight awkward squeeze at head height to enter. Some speleothems dry.



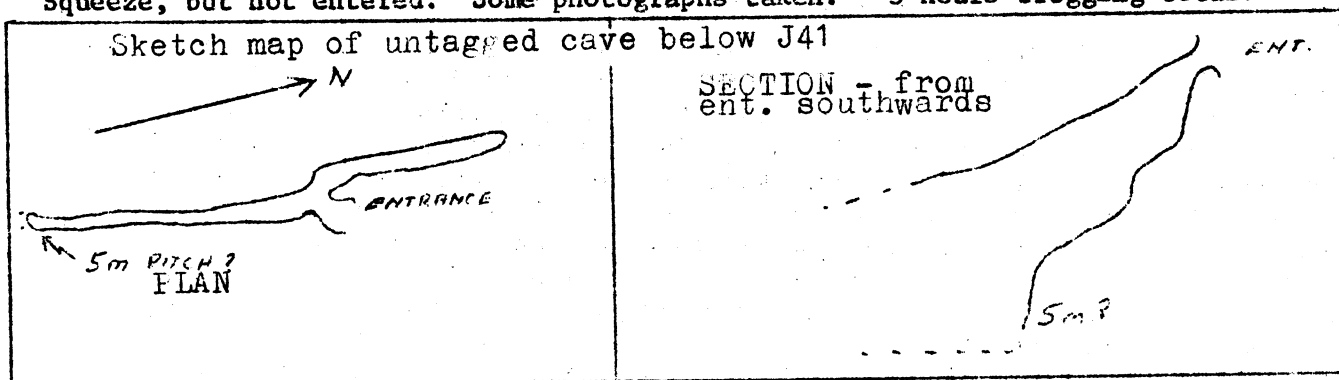
J.87 a tight, tin and bone floored tunnel two columns 8 cm diam. approx. 1.5m high 2m long. Partly polished entrance.



No.6 (contd.)

Untagged Cave: Below J.41, 1/3 way up hill small entrance 005m square 5m climb into rift extends approx. North South following cliff line to South 10m (approx. 0.7m wide, 6-8m high) to drop, may need 5m ladder for descent. To North about 10m to tight squeezes. Two dead rabbits. Total depth estimated 18m?

Party also visited upper levels of J.41 and looked at Percolator Squeeze, but not entered. Some photographs taken. 3 hours trogging total.



Andrew Pavey

No.7SURFACE INSPECTION

31.12.72

PRESENT: Joe Jennings, Dave Lowry, John Dunkley and Glenn Hunt.

Wandered down Jenolan River from Playing Fields. Photographed and examined Devils Coach House. Looked at "meeting of the waters" at Blue Lake. Grand Arch (noted roof channel and joint(?) plane anastomoses on roof). Mused about possible course of Camp Ck. before it came to occupy present course through Grand Arch (looked at this area). Back to Playing Fields.

Commented on fact that surface streams from North and South follow the course of the limestone belt fairly faithfully but at Lucas Rocks limestone stands in relief (a paradox?). Joe would like photograph showing clearly how Lucas Rocks forms a barrier across the Camp Creek Valley. Would probably need to be taken from some remote and inaccessible place (or from the air).

Glenn Hunt

No.8BULLS CREEK AREA - TRICKETS "LIMESTONE HEREABOUTS"

31.12.72

PRESENT: Henry Shannon, Andrew Spiers, John Greenaway. Spent 4 hours surface exploration.

I have been fascinated by the words "limestone hereabouts" appearing on the Jenolan map in Carne and Jones, "Limestone deposits of N.S.W.". Since Ted gave me some air photos of the area, I found that an extensive area of strongly outcropping ground occurred in that same area. So it looked very promising indeed. The result of 4 traverses over the area was to explode these hopes. No limestone at all was found and the outcrops seen on the photos were identifiable as porphyry, conglomerate or rhyolite.

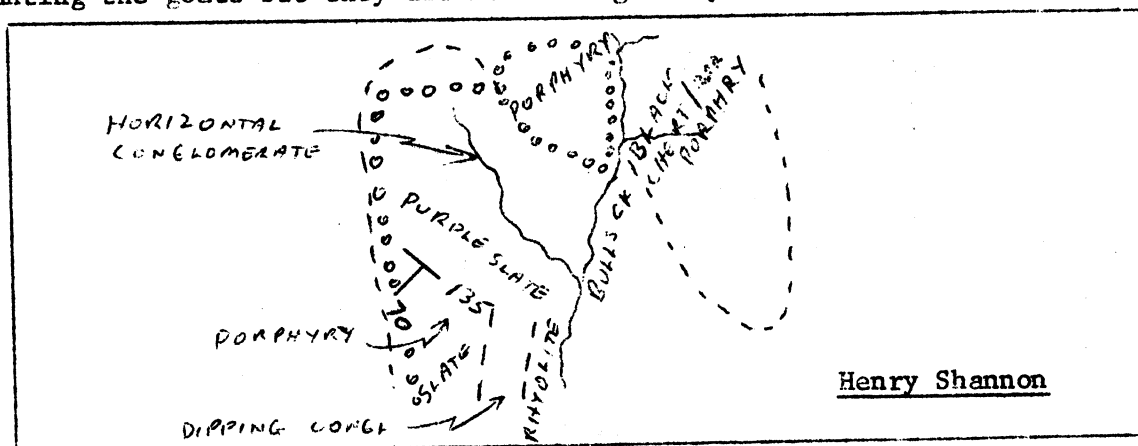
No.8 (contd.)

One point to note is that the main road shown on the Jenolan map is the old dirt road - not the new one. Two distinctive hairpin bends have been cut out. Fire tracks shown on the preliminary edition are there still, and a new one has been cut to reach Bulls Creek from the East.

I boomed in starting from 021275, which is East of the prospective "limestone area". Capertee group conglomerate is crossed on the track. Prominent outcrops down to the creek are porphyry. Some sheared chlorite near the creek and in much of the bed of Bulls Creek. This is a stratified black closely jointed rock comparable with that in Mammoth Flat (Dillons Creek). Some light rhyolite was present as creek boulders, as was the "purple slate" (mainly grey phase) comparable with strata near the "You are entering Jenolan Caves Reserve" sign and the gorge of McKeowns i.e. strata above the limestone. So it is possible that the stratigraphic horizon of the limestone is present. Strike of the black rock was 130° mag dip near vertical to N.E. A prominent outcrop bearing 95° on a neighbouring mountain dips 70° N.E. The black rock was intruded by more "porphyry" of several types.

To check the position of the tunnel I walked out to the main road from where the car had been parked (see ref. above) and found out my error but in the meantime crossed an area of red soil in the gully, and later some "purple shale" (the red soil could be, but probably isn't, limestone). Thence along the road, where patches of conglomerate overlies purple shale which strikes persistently at 130° , dips S.W. variable, circa 60° . We went back to the Terrace creek road junction and followed the right track this time to the knob at 019268. Didn't go right to the creek. The knob itself and prominent outcrops for some hundreds of yards down hill are mainly porphyry. (Slate may make up much of this area. Little porphyry was seen coming back up the spur to the S.F.) Below is conglomerate, which unconformably? overlies? pale rhyolite? The apparent dip of rhyolite is 70° W, that of the conglomerate 30° , strike nearly north. (The dip of the rhyolite is uncertain, the conglomerate dip is reliable but not necessarily representative. It is taken at a trickling waterfall, where the unconformity is exposed.

On the way to this point we heard, and when we got there we saw, a pack of dogs (definitely dogs, brown, working type with flop ears and bushy tails, barking). And also 4 goats. We realized later that the dogs were probably hunting the goats but they did not seem greatly concerned by them.



No.9PHOTOGRAPHIC SURVEYING PARTY1.1.73

PRESENT: Andrew Pavey, Bev Riley, Roger Curtis, Lea Johnson,
John ? , Chris Fisher.

Checked bearing in J32 (315°) and continued upstream to unnumbered cave below J41. This was surveyed CRG3. The pitch is 5 m followed by a light squeeze which leads on and up to a tight joint like passage. There is faint daylight visible some 10 m above. The rift ends in a formation and boulder choke. Total length 45 m in plan. Depth 15-18 m. 1 hour - Pavey/Riley.

Party then visited J92 and duly photographed Silverfrost Cavern. The track markers are good but the vertical ones are a bit loose and prone to flattening by big hoofs. Party then went to Western Passage and joined scaling pole party. Photographs (colour and B/W) were taken of good aragonite crystals in new passage. Bellows unit used for close ups. Pavey/Fisher.

Hours caving: 7 Gear used: rope in Silverfrost and ladder in J.X.
(Path UNSWSS)

Andrew Pavey

No.10SURVEY PARTY SURVEYING IN SERPENTINE1.1.73

PRESENT: Phil Toomer, Bruce Denney, Peter Downes, Jean Vick

Surveyed from entrance tag on Serpentine Cave lower entrance (J72) along main "Serpentine Passage" past 1st squeeze to squeeze prior to upper entry chamber. Permanent stations put in through entire traverse. Surveyed using tripod mounted forestry compass and fibreglass tape.

"Long mudslide" pushed to end, finishes with dead pink flowstone formation, extensive dry pool deposits (dog tooth type) at top of mud slide.

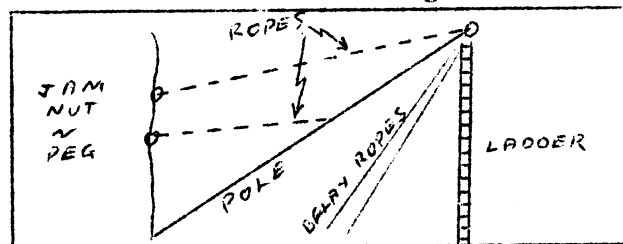
Collected soil sample for Bushrangers Cave.

Philip Toomer

No.11EXPLORATORY PARTY (SCALING POLE) - WIBURDS LAKE CAVE1.1.73

PRESENT: Jim Seabrook (L), Thea McIntosh, Peter Radcliffe, Wendy Mackenzie,
"Spike" Milligan, Col. Mathers, Stuart and Allan (two of Ron Newboulds kids)

We erected the guides scaling pole up "Emasculation Area" 40' pole.



Discovered a high level passage opening into the area connecting NW passage to the chamber at the start of the Western Passage. A southern passage drops off

No.11 (Contd.)

to the south (60' deep?), very muddy. A chimney leads off from this passage. Neither pushed far today. A southern side passage sloping upward at approx. 40° was pushed and found to be blocked. The N. Western passage was entered from this new section by an 80' ladder. Excellent decoration in this passage (also plenty of mud).

Jim Seabrook

No.12 GEOMORPHOLOGICAL INSPECTION - MAMMOTH CAVE 1.1.73

PRESENT: J. Dunkley, J.N. Jennings, D.C. Lowry, H. Shannon, A. Rogers
- published SUSS Bull.12(8): 93

Geomorph. and hydrology inspection. Looked at Conglomerate Cavern, Cold Hole, Horseshoe Cavern, Railway Tunnel and the main route to Southern Section and Lower River. Debate centred about the origin and significance of the gravel deposits esp. in Congl. Cavern. Scallopings were closely examined in the passage to Cold Hole. There are current markings in both directions and even up. Seems likely that a stream sink at the entrance poured water and gravel north thru Cold Hole to R.T. and possibly as far north as Skull and X bones or even further. Scallopings definitely need to be studied more closely. More heated debate centred on origin of flat roofs in C.H. and R.T. on a possible roof channel 150' above Horseshoe and its relationship to the roof channel at entrance. Also went to Lower River without much addition to knowledge. H.S. estimated flow at 5-6 cusecs. Some sand seems to have been moved from the recovery of the river.

John Dunkley

No. 13 UNNAMED CAVE APPROX. 40' BELOW AND 80' NORTH OF
WOMBATS RETREAT 1.1.73

PRESENT: J. Dunkley, C.H. Shannon

This cave has been reported also by J. Seabrook but no entry was made. It is a 4' x 4' pit below a small tree. An easily negotiated 6' drop leads to top of a sloping drop which continues down over 1 or 2 small drops to a total depth of 35'. The cave seems to be basically a rock collapse and a couple of side leads enable some small length to be added.

At one stage JD emerged from a squeeze at the base of entrance pit, returned inside cave and started to draw a map, when crackling drew attention to a small grass fire. We bounded out of the cave and beat it out. Seems to have been started by a thermal updraft from trog lamp to grass overhanging the entrance.

John Dunkley

No.14KANANGRA - DAY TRIP2.1.73PRESENT: A. Pavey

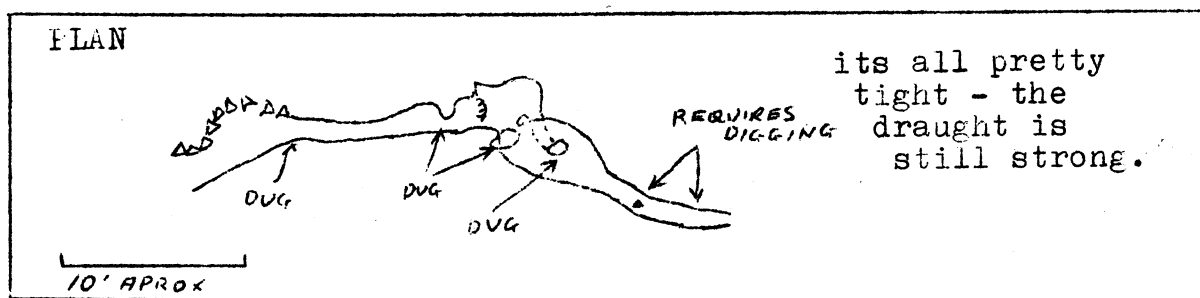
Dropped Roger Curtis at Mammoth flat at 10.45 and after electrical trouble with car got out to Kanangra Walls. Walked over to Kanangra Creek and joined Julia James party abseil/prussiking the 500 ft pitch. Returned via J.C. and walked through Devils Coach House taking photos. Gear from Wiburds washed in Jenolan River downstream of Blue Lake. Access via side road east of Grand Arch.

Andrew PaveyNo.15BLUE LAKE2.1.73PRESENT: H. Shannon

Spotted the low level of the lake when driving past, insisted on being let out. The water was perhaps 3'-4' below the main weir crest. This meant that I could get a measurement of sorts on the flow through the broken pipe, and a good one on the leakage through the little weir at the resurgence, also the Styx Efflux (now contaminated by a small anabranch from the Jenolan Underground river JUR). The estimate for the Styx by difference. Results - through the pipe 6 cusecs. Under resurgence weir 1 cusec. Below Styx efflux 0.4 cusec. Camp Ck. 0.1 cusecs (all from JUR)
 i.e. JUR = 7 cusecs
 Styx = 0.3 "

Henry ShannonNo.16PARADOX CAVE - DIGGING PARTY2.1.73PRESENT: Henry Shannon, Andrew Spiers, John Greenway.

To check the inflow point of the river we wandered up the narrow passage to the "end" of the cave. A strong draught was noticeable (out) in the small chamber at the end. We set to work (with some trepidation) removing rocks from the rubble blocking the passage onward. When this mass was out it was just possible to get through and we were able to knock off some knobblies to make it quite reasonable. 10' on was another blockage, past rockpile, past gravel cemented flowstone. Some sign of pressure chipping of flowstone. This also was removed, quite easily and without bringing the cave down on top of me. 10' on the passage turns right and the stream bed rises steeply, choked with cobbles. Some hours were spent removing them, in hope of getting into a cavern visible at the end. But the last rocks were judged too dangerous to shift. As we moved out Andrew Spiers spotted an alternative route which he quickly opened up. This got us into the cavern. Beyond this the river bed becomes fairly level. We did not dig out the first choke due to lack of time. The passage goes on. There is another choke 10' on, and 5' further on the passage bends out of sight to the left.

No.16 (Contd.)Henry ShannonNo.17SCALING POLE TRIP (WLC)2.1.73

A continuation of yesterdays' work. We mapped the new extensions and explored the side passage - this did not go. We then tried to reach an entrance opposite the start of the new extensions but could not swing the pole into the entrance of it - the pole bent. Moved into Avenging Area. This went up 60' and stopped. Cleaned gear at hydro outflow (recommend this for further cleaning of gear).

Jim SeabrookNo.18FRENCHMANS CAVE3.1.73

PRESENT: P. Radcliffe (L), W. Mackenzie, John Bosler, W. Crawford, S. Newbolt.

Just a general tourisy into this cave. An attempt by Wendy Mackenzie to clean some formation. Some limited success. Trip time 3 hours.

P. RadcliffeNo.19BUSHRANGERS CAVE (J 70)3.1.73

PRESENT: E. & J. Hamilton-Smith, J.R. Dunkley, A. & A. Grahame, M. Richter.

Bushrangers was investigated to follow up a report from C. Mathers of large numbers of bats roosting. There were none roosting at the time of our visit and only a small number flying about. Time: ½ hour.

John Dunkley

No.20SERPENTINE CAVE - SURVEYING CONTINUED 3.1.73

PRESENT: P. Toomer, J.R. Dunkley, A. & A. Grahame, M. Richter.
Surveying : time 5 hours.

Split into 2 parties - traverse (JD, Andrew G, MG) and detail (PT, Anne G). Traverse party picked up traverse at 2nd squeeze. Enormous difficulty was encountered in getting a traverse through the squeeze and up the steep mudslope beyond. Several intermediate stations were employed. The mud slope can be free climbed provided weight is transferred carefully step by step. The traverse was brought out the top entrance and closed in to both the J72 entrance and to Bushrangers. Returned to Guides Office 7 p.m.

John Dunkley

No.21ORIENT AND TEMPLE OF BAAL3.1.73

PRESENT: Keith Watson and John Culley (Guides), J.R. & J.E. Dunkley, R. Curtis, A. & A. Grahame, A. Pavey, R. Murray, E. & J. Hamilton-Smith, T. Mackintosh, Derek Barthow, C. Parr, P. Toomer, Ian Lewis, P. Downes, M. Richter, P. Radcliffe, G. Matthews, Wendy Crawford, J. Bosler, Keith ?

Special inspection of Orient and Baal, emphasizing the steam cleaning operations, which raised considerable interest. Culley and Watson explained the problems encountered, methods used, the need to continue the programme, problems of tourist management generally. Innumerable photographs were taken. John Cully is interested in our finding a suitable method of plugging up and covering over holes in cave decoration caused by old electrical installations and paths.

John Dunkley

No.22TUGLOW CAVES3.1.73

PRESENT: Ron Murray (L), C. Parr, I. Lewis, P. Downes

Familiarisation trip to area. Track all the way to caves passable by Landrover in fine weather - perhaps would be a little difficult in inclement weather. Cave entered at approx. 1 p.m. Party had a look downstream end of river passage, then headed upstream. Reached formation chamber (former location of Knights Knobbly Knob) then returned. Some photography also done. Emerged from cave about 5 p.m.

Remarks: Cave is getting dirtier and more dangerous (due to slippery mud everywhere in sight). Rubbish in sight almost everywhere. Cave seems to be in need of a gate.

Ron Murray

No.23GRAND ARCH AND ENVIRONS - PHOTOGRAPHY 3.1.73PRESENT: Andrew Pavey, Alan Rogers, Roger Curtis

Left for early morning photographs of Grand Arch from the East,
at about 8.30 a.m.

Parked at No.2 parking lot and walked over D.C.H. and followed the old (very, very!) track round the hillside, several hundred feet above the road. Finally decided we had gone one ridge too far and retreated to the road. Got a good series of shots from bluff above garage. Also shots of Blue Lake, swans, etc. Also climbed to top of Lucas Rock and took panoramic shots of Caves House etc. Attempts to get shots from west were not successful - too many trees. Lunch at the power station - many flies.

Andrew PaveyNo.24FRENCHMANS CAVE4.1.73PRESENT: R. Murray, P. Toomer, J.G. Dunkley (Leaders), Gary Mathew, Chris Parr, Peter Downes, Mark Berriman, Mike Richter.

A definitive survey of the afore-mentioned cave was undertaken on a short visit. The cave was entered by ladder via lower entrance (most) or by abseil via higher entrance (Phil T.) and was thoroughly examined in the light of previous comments by Wendy Mackenzie ("a lovely cave"). It was concluded that Frenchmans Cave is a "grotty hole". Some rubbish was removed. It must have been a beautiful cave once.

J.G. Dunkley

There are sections of the roof of Frenchmans which resemble the roof of Serpentine cave, in that the roof is basically flat with a shallow inverted trough following the passage.

Contrary to the above report there are some pretties worth seeing and some sporting squeezes. Attempts by valiant leader No.2 to inspire the party to look at little holes in the Rhohole Bluff were ineffective.

P.B. Toomer

Went in - went out - grotty hole.

R. Murray

P.S. Definitely an asthetically beautiful cave. These people have no taste.

Wendy K. Mac.K.P. Radcliffe

(Some people seem to have a taste for mud)

R.J.M.

4.1.73

PRESENT: Andrew Pavey, Alan Rogers, Peter Radcliffe, Wendy Mackenzie,
John Bosler, Ian Lewis, Derek Barthow.

After much verbal chastisement from BFL an early start was made and we had everyone at the bottom of the entrance pitch at 9.30 a.m. At the Middle Bit Dick Legge and Geoff Francis turned back upon being informed that the caving got harder after Central Lake.

At Red Cascade a survey of opinions favoured the North Tunnel as the way on (thus proving a point about Can't Get Lost). Formation squeeze had the delightful addition of a 4" deep pool of water.

A photostat of the North Tunnel map was found just beyond the Backbreaker. The aim of the trip had been to survey Cycloidal Passage and look for the reported 20' drop in the rockpile on the eastern side of GNC.

A small streambed was found threading through the boulders with a gravel floor - vaguely reminiscent of Cycloidal Passage. Ian managed to get down a tight hole in the rockpile above the point where the stream passage vanished into the rockpile. This hole gave access to another hole through which a 4 m drop could be seen leading down. This drop was negotiated with the aid of all the waistloops in the party. Ian went down and reported a mud slide ending in a 2 m drop into a large cavern containing a stream bed. Andrew followed down and exploration commenced. The cavern contains a Y junction of dry stream beds one from the west emerging from gravels and heading east across the cavern to disappear into gravels also. The other stream joined it from the north. This was followed along a high bedding plane rift till the roof came down suddenly and a large boulder blocked the passage. Andrew lifted out a block about head sized but couldn't get through the hole created. The river could be clearly heard on the other side of this block and this spurred the fearless trogs on to dig under the boulder. The gravel and mud were scraped out with hands and boots and after about an hour the tight squeeze (dubbed Mud in the Eye) was pushed to the first sighting of Central River beyond the GNC. The stream sighted is almost certainly Central River. The flow is about the same and the passage is quite young. The stream flows towards the squeeze and then dives into a 4"x2" slot in bedrock.

Upstream Andrew pushed for 5 metres to an impenetrable pool and general tightening of the passage. No chance of further pushing exists. The main passage leading back to Twiddley-Om-Pom Cavern (Ref.CEGSA newsletter) is obviously a flood overflow. If the stream rose more than a few centimetres the water would flow through Mud in Your Eye squeeze and down to the y junction and thence into the east wall of Twiddley-Om-Pom Cavern. This point would appear to be the best site for a dig. A quick CRG 3 survey was done yielding about 100 m of new passage, before the compass (clogged with mud) finally failed.

The return trip up the 18 m of pitch to GNC was quite difficult on the muddy waistlines and they had to be knotted in a crude ladder to finally effect an escape.

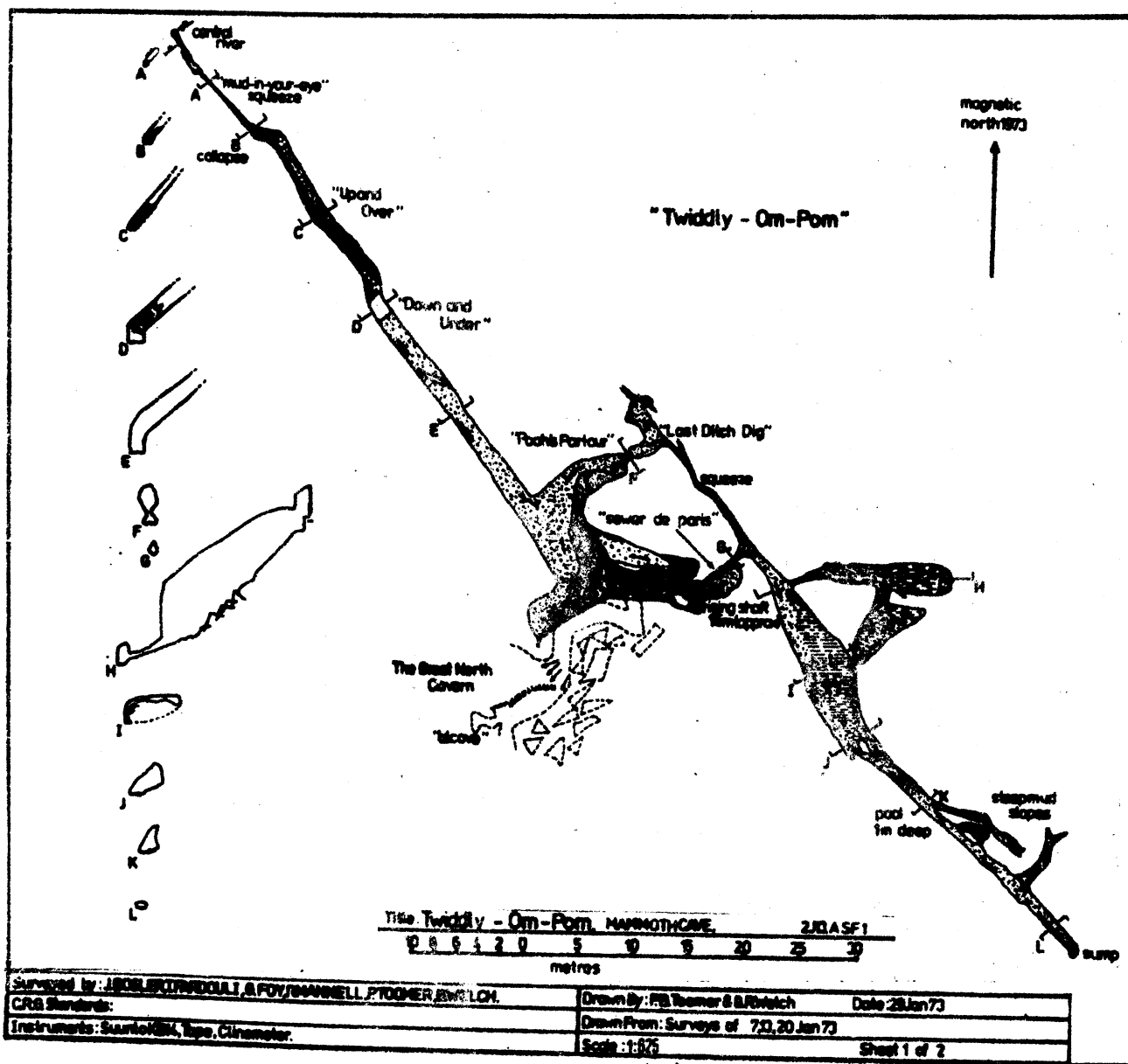
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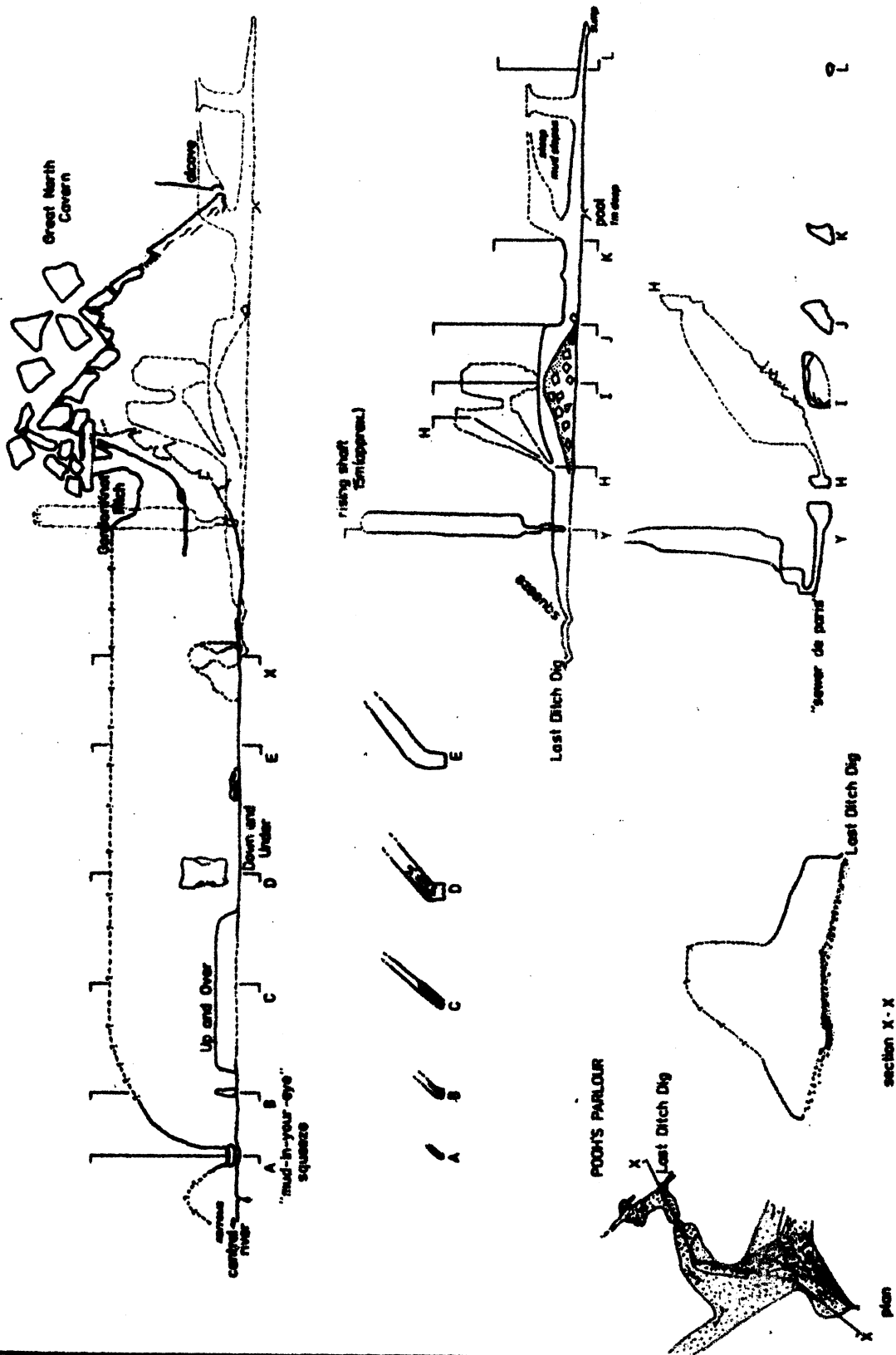
The rest of the party had remained above in GNC since it was felt they couldn't negotiate the pitch.

The meal of cold spaghetti, walnuts, peanuts and chocolate was consumed avariciously before all started the long grind up North Tunnel to the surface.

The cars were reached at 7 p.m. where group photos of muddy trogs were taken. The Gordian Knot of slings/tapes etc. was exhibited back at Hampton much to the amusement of the inmates. Caving time: 9½ hours

Andrew Pavey





	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Surveyed by JAMES E. FARQUHAR, J. F. FORBES, HANSELL P. TOPPER, & WELCH Drawn by P. B. Toomer & R. Welch Date: 29 Jan 74 Title: Widdly - On - Poti, Mammoth Cave, ZH13 ASF1 C.R.G. Standard: Drawn From: Surveys of 7/13/20 Jan 73 0 0 0 4 2 0 5 0 15 20 25 30 Instruments: Suunto KB14, Tape, Clinometer. Scale: 1:625 Sheet 2 of 2														

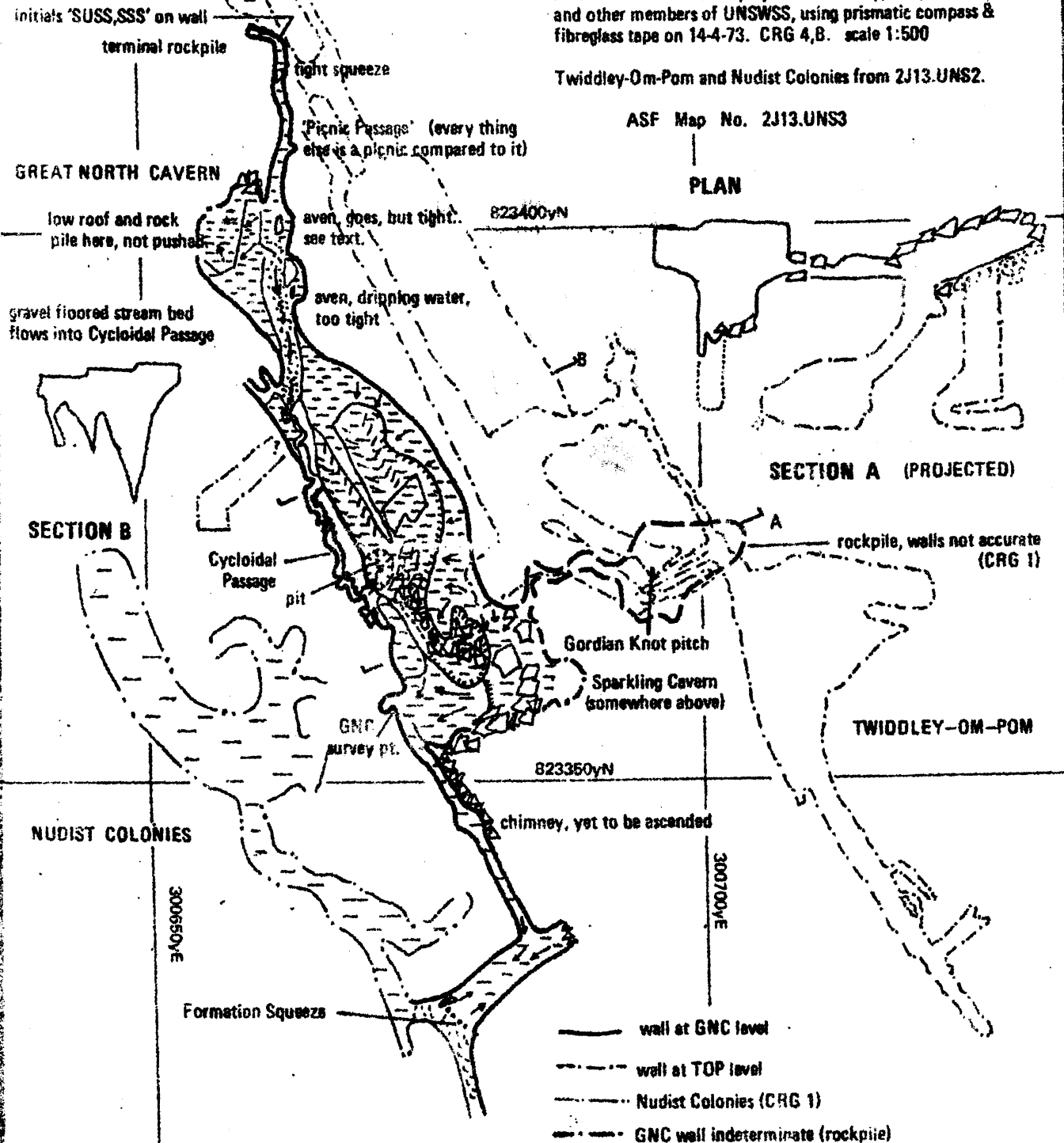
THE GREAT NORTH CAVERN and its relation to Twiddle-Om-Pom.

Great North Cavern survey by Andrew Pavey, Gary Matthew,
and other members of UNSWSS, using prismatic compass &
fibreglass tape on 14-4-73. CRG 4,B. scale 1:500

Twiddle-Om-Pom and Nudist Colonies from 2J13.UNS2.

ASF Map No. 2J13.UNS3

PLAN



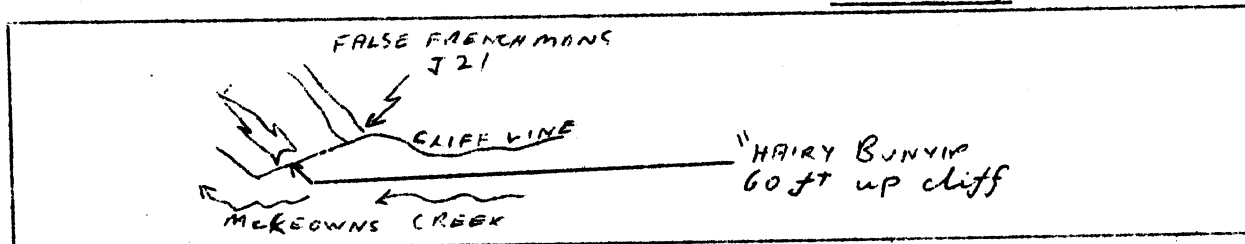
No.26ABSEILING - FRENCHMANS BLUFF5.1.73PRESENT:

Andrew Pavey, Peter Radcliffe, John Bosler, Wendy Mackenzie,
Wendy Crawford, Derek Barthow.

"Caving" time - 3 hours

The aim of the trip was to abseil into the small cave about 20m above the creek bed just south of False Frenchmans Cave (J21). The cliff turned out to be about 70m high and the cave "Hairy Bunyip" was about 7m deep and 3m wide 1m high. It narrowed to the back and would make a good dig. The whole floor was covered with small bones (looked like birds and small rodents). The name arose from discussions as to the origin of all the bones ("clearly the lair of a Hairy Bunyip"). False Frenchmans was also briefly visited by A.J.P.

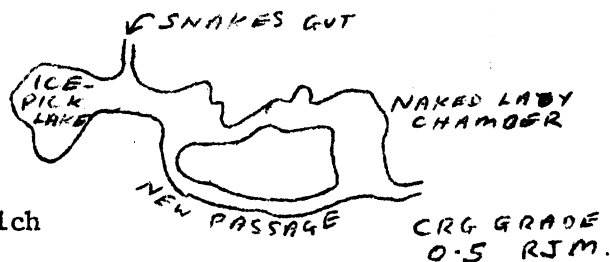
Andrew Pavey

No.27NAKED LADY CHAMBER, MAMMOTH CAVE5.1.73PRESENT:

Ron Murray (L), P. Toomer, P. Downes, C. Parr, R. Legge,
G. Mathew, J. ?

Purpose of trip - to examine passage off Naked Lady Chamber. Party entered cave about 1 p.m. Icepick Lake was visited, then climb made up to Naked Lady Chamber to examine steeply sloping passage on R.H.S. as you enter cave from Icepick Lake direction. This passage noted by R.J.M. on previous trip. C. Parr abseiled down passage and found it to connect with cavern next to Icepick Lake. After examining the ballistic properties of Railway Tunnel Mud, the party exited at about 5 p.m.

Note: Icepick Lake was much lower than usual - at least 50' away from hole thru which you normally look at it.



R. Murray

No.28COLONG CAVES4/5.1.73PRESENT:

J. Seabrook, K. Maxwell, B. Birch, T. McIntosh, R. Curtis,
P. Dorkas, T. Fardouly, L. Colvin.

Drove out to top of Acetylene Spur (VW Country Buggy). Camped in Key Cave. Trip to Woof's Cavern. Cleaned some of the rubbish out of the cave.

No.28 (Contd.)

A lot has been done to clean up Colong Main since my last visit. Attempted some photography in the chimneys beyond the gate.

Removed six garbage bags of crushed cans and then rubbish from Key Cave. Cut my leg on one of the broken bottles we removed from Key Cave. Tetanus injection in Oberon. Returned to Hampton.

P.S. It is evident from the log books in Kings X & Woofs Cavern that there are still a large no. of illegal trips to Colong. J. Seabrook

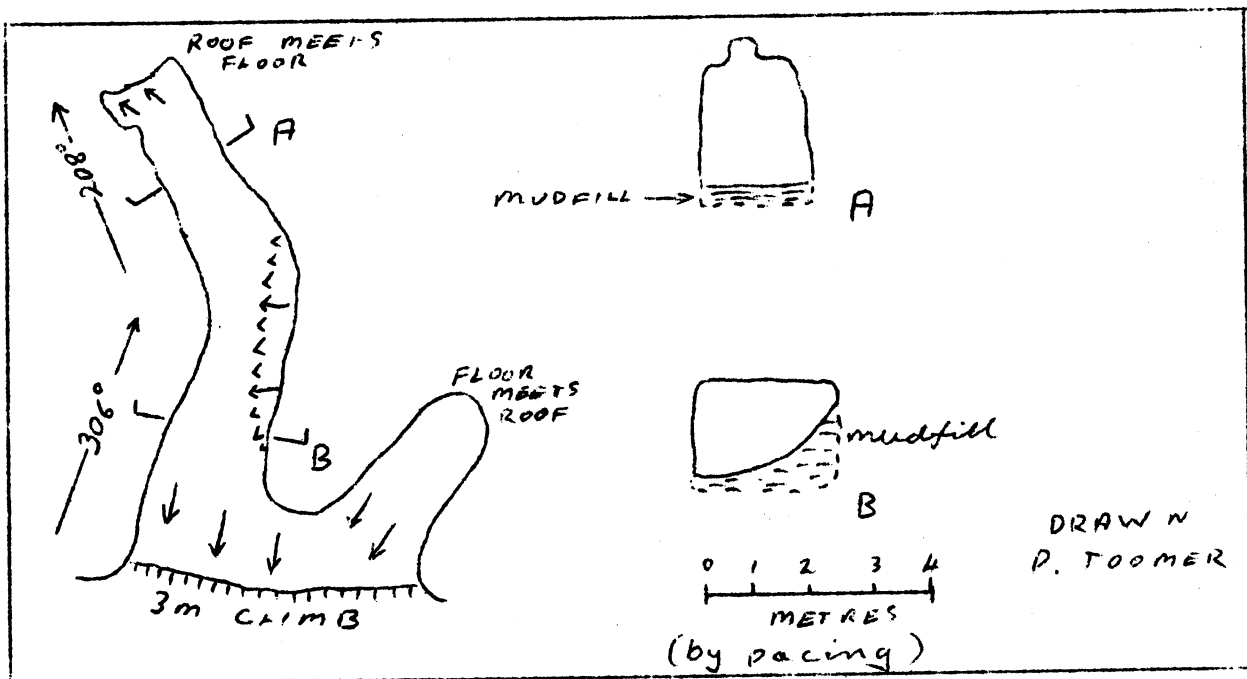
No.29DIGGING IN LAKE CHAMBER6.1.73

PRESENT: H. Shannon, G. Hunt, P. Toomer, B. Welch.

Object of the exercise was to dig out the hole the water goes down in the Lake Chamber. Actually there are two such holes, each carrying a gravel train. We dug both with unsatisfactory results. The main hole goes to a small chamber, and the exit from it is boot size only. The main water exit was a better proposition. About 6' of inclined squeeze was dug, mainly by Glen and myself. This gives access to some 20' of gravel bed crawlway. Then the roof progressively closes down over about 10'. No draught. It may conceivably still go but is too much like hard work.

Above the mouth of the dig is a porthole in the wall which I hadn't noticed before. It did not look trogged. Glen gave Phil a leg up. Phil reports:

At the top of the mud slope the passage levelled out and had a mud floor. The passage continued for approx. 10m and then turned slightly for a further 6m when the roof meets the floor (a grade 3 survey was carried out, see over). A further small passage continued around to the right and the floor met the roof.

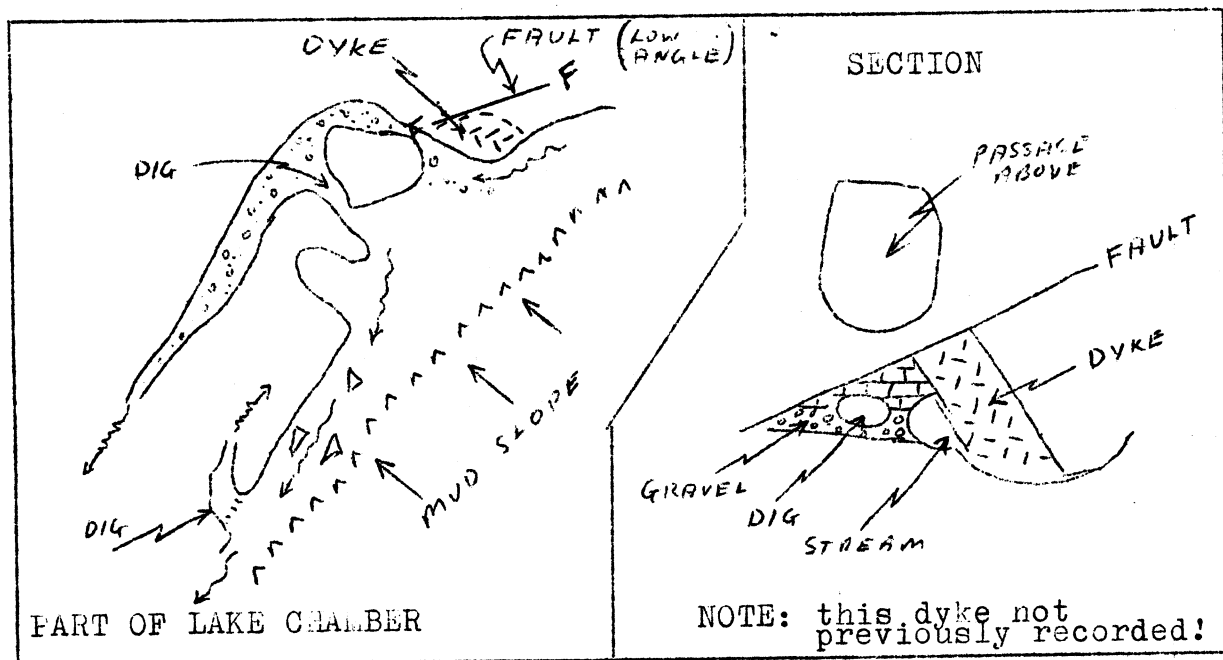


No.29 (Contd.)

Later Bruce and Philip followed stream passage thru and around the rockpile and returned but this was not new passage.

A trip up into the roof above stn 5 was also made and there are some dead pretties and some forming as a result of ce dissolution, some is perhaps aragonite.

While Bruce and Phil were wandering up in the roof I went with Glenn to look at the UQSS ie. Henry's Dig. Jim had indeed removed the obstructing rock. The next group still need shifting. It might be possible to hammer off some of the offending lumps. The draught is strong and the passage opens out in another 10 feet. Most promising but yuk! the mud.



Henry Shannon

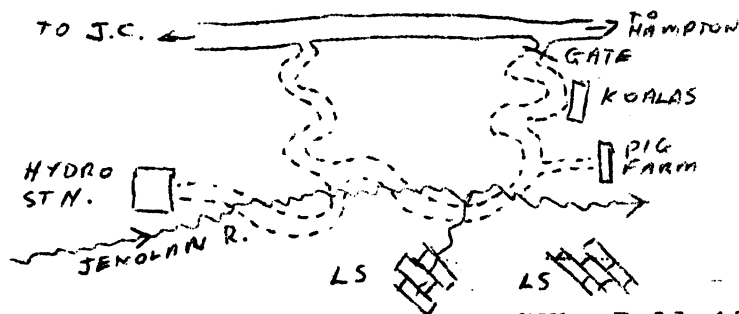
No.30

EASTERN LIMESTONE INVESTIGATION

6.1.73

PRESENT: J. Seabrook et al.

I attempted to investigate possible vehicle routes into E.L.S. The first "Private Road" north of the Grand Arch will give access as far as the old pig farm (below the old Koala Goal).



A road off the K.Walls road was supposed to lead to the other end of the Eastern Limestone. The road surface afforded little traction and it proved impossible for 2 WD vehicles. VW still there.

J. Seabrook

No.31WIBURDS LAKE CAVE - TOURISTING6.1.73PRESENT:

I. Wood (L), Jean Vick, Graham Love, John Bosler, Wendy Crawford,
Dick Legge.

In: 5.00 p.m. Out: 11.30 p.m.

Purpose: General tourist trip and familiarisation. Graham and Dick had been in the cave before but neither know the cave well.

Met Henry Shannon and party coming out of entrance. They (sorry Henry) gave detailed unintelligible directions to the Silverfrost section. Once in the cave the group worked the high levels on the R.H. side of the entrance chamber, climbing high up into an area (which had been previously entered by at least one person). Other leads were also followed in the maze section but the connection to Silverfrost was not located.

The passage to Wiburds Lake was then taken and followed to the Mud Bank. The party then returned to the Lake and up the R.H. branch to the rock fall area. The rock fall was entered and the long passage leading off this located. The squeeze with the draught (marked on map) was followed and rocks removed at the end. This extended the passage upwards about 10 feet and then along another 15' until no further progress could be made due to the tightness of the squeeze. John Bosler reported that he had also lost the breeze. Other sections of the Rock Pile were also entered without further penetration.

A party of tourist guides were met so we joined up with them and returned to the Mud Bank, climbed this and entered the Western Passage, following it through to the end. On the return attempts were made to locate Neddys Knock. The Avenging Area was entered. A floor hole was entered which led down into more rockpile with little chance of extension.

The main party then entered Neddys Knock while myself and John Bosler who returned to the Maze to look for Silverfrost (again without success). The party left the Cave at 11.30 p.m.

Ian Wood

No.32GREAT NORTH CAVERN - TO TWIDDLY-OM-POM AGAIN!7.1.73PRESENT:

Henry Shannon (Native Guide ?),
(Trip Leaders ?) Terry Fardouly, Philip Toomer, Bruce Welch.
In: 1130 Out: 2245

Aim: Set pitch to Twiddly-Om-Pom.
Survey Twiddly-Om-Pom.

After eventually leaving Hampton we arrived in mammoth and set out for GNC. Some time was lost in the mud after the gravel grovel but eventually arrived in the GNC at 1445 and commenced a sumptuous lunch hors d'overs of sardines then to nuts for dessert. The use of cashews as a "last ditch" light source was proven. After lunch the search for the hole into the new section began and involved a fairly thorough search in Sparkle Cavern and right down to the floor of GNC. It was eventually found through a small hole behind a ledge, access is down the hole and along through the mud until it becomes obvious that one is perched precariously above a lot of space. The ladder was dropped down the Gordian Knot pitch and onward, and Philip descended past some pretties down

No.32 (Contd.)

a mud slope and into a large cave with enough stream passage to boggle Henry. The rest of the party then followed down and Henry and Bruce disappeared in opposite directions and Terry and Philip started the survey, stn. 1 being a prominent rock at the junction (carbide mark). The Mud in the Eye squeeze is interesting. The trip out commenced at 2012 and an exit from mammoth was completed by 2245.

The absence of a foothold at the crux of Skull and Crossbones is noted. The ladders were left to be collected on the trip to be done on 13 Jan 73. A more explicit description by C.H.Shannon may follow.

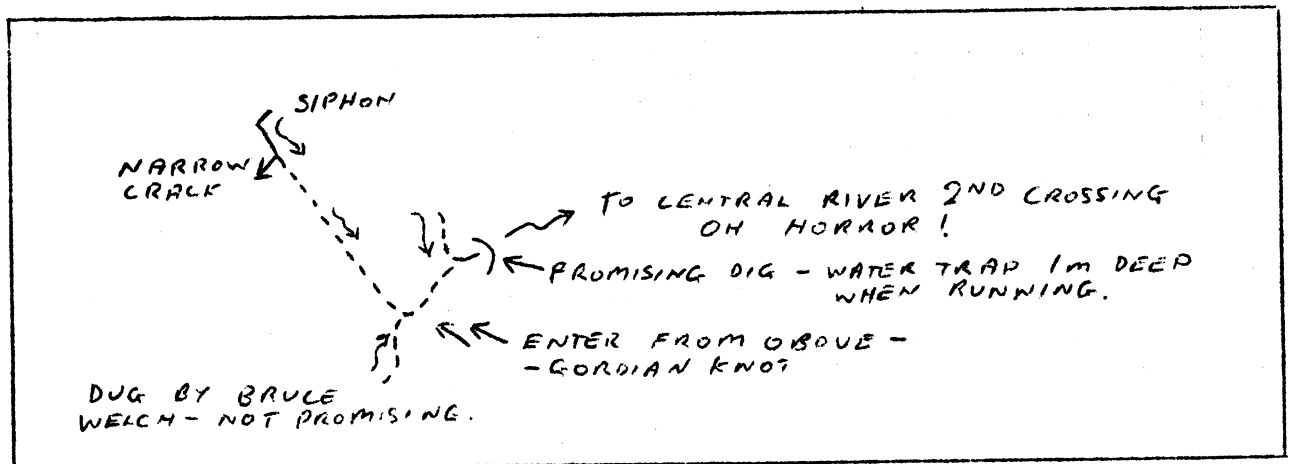
Philip Toomer

FURTHER COMMENTS on GREAT NORTH CAVERN EFFORT

I did indeed get lost just after gravel grovel - n.b. the climb up over flowstone is not obvious in the book - the page left in the cave further on is quite demoralising - one doesn't really want to know that*.

(* Photostat of Infinite Crawl map pasted on the wall, showing the amount left to crawl RHK)

Central river at 1st crossing is 0.05 cusecs. The new stream is 0.02 cusecs viz. a good deal smaller. There is possibly another larger tributary making up the rest of Central River. It would take very little more water to make the stream run through mud-in-your-eye squeeze, and into the cavern. Strike control of this passage is very pronounced. It follows a group of thin impure limestone beds with several thin interbeds of purple shale. The stream bed coming from the general direction of G.N.C. seems a bit on the small side. I suspect that it is G.N.C. water but not necessarily all of it. The downstream end is certainly diggable, though the gravel is rather compact. There is a strong draught coming through this hole and it is certainly a good digging prospect. Another stream enters from the north a little further in. As a dig it looks unrewarding and too much work for the prospects.



Henry Shannon

No.33MAMMOTH AND IMPERIAL WATER SAMPLING7.1.73PRESENT:

Rik Tunney (L), C. Mathers, K. Maxwell, G. Mathew, C. Fisher.

In: 12.00 Out: 4.00

Purpose : Taking water samples.

While Rosemary, a friend of C. Fisher, was being belayed out, C. Mathers, K. Maxwell and G. Mathew went to Lower River via Mammoth Squeeze and back via 40'. A water sample was taken Rik and C. Fisher met the party at Cold Hole.

Water samples were taken at Central Lake and at Central River. H. Shannon's party to GNC was to collect a sample from the river there.

On returning to the tourist area a trip was organised into Imperial and water samples were taken. The river in Imperial was higher than normal as the pump house was using the cave as a storage.

Rik Tunney

Central Lake was very low, enough to allow me to wade through it and crawl along a stream passage for approx. 40'. The water entered the passage through a very thin ($\frac{1}{4}$ ") crack but a few feet away, through a rock pile a very noisy and fast flowing stream could be seen (Central River?).

Colin MathersNo.34AERIAL INSPECTION7.1.73PRESENT:

Jim Bore (HCG Pilot), J.R. Dunkley (SUSS), Miles Pierce (VSA), and Bruce Harper.

Equipment: Cessna 180

Left Spring Hill airport (near Orange) 10.30 a.m. Flew via Clifden, circling a few times and getting excellent shots, then to Abercrombie. As the pilot had no bearing on Abercrombie we flew to Barry and then followed the road down and back. The view of the gorge, then the disappearance of the river, is superb, but the weather was becoming overcast and contrast for colour photography was low. We returned following the road, regained a bearing to Jenolan and circled three times. Again, conditions were poor, with ceilings at 4800', us at 4700', range at 4000'. The view is absolutely magnificent, and on a sunny day would be incomparable. The light green/yellow flats like that opp. Wiburds contrast vividly with the sombre dark forest. The pine forest devastation is execrable. We circled Hampton House and returned to Orange.

Total time: 1.9 hours, cost \$10 a head.

John Dunkley

No.35IN AND OUT OF OOLITE CAVERN, MAMMOTH7.1.73PRESENT: Graham Love, Peter Grossky

In: 2000 hrs Out: 130 hrs.

General look about.

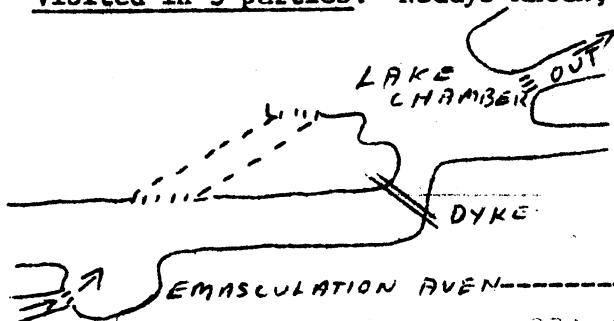
With three of the guides from Jenolan went to look at Oolite - had trouble finding 40 ft. Went and looked at Railway Tunnel and Horseshoe and then proceeded down 40' to Oolite. Nothing exciting done.

G.R. LoveNo.36COLLECTING IN WIBURDS LAKE CAVE8.1.73

This trip was an attempt to combine sample collecting with photography/touristing.

Ernie Holland required samples of "marshmallow" (moon-milk) from Silverfrost and solution from arogonite from Neddys Knock. These samples were collected during a tourist/photo trip through the cave.

Visited in 3 parties: Neddys Knock, Silverfrost, Yawning Gullies, 22 Passage.



Located Probable Warbo-Wiburds connection.
Pushed Top of Rock Pile - Prospect
Located Probable continuation of O/S
 of Emasculation Aven - Lake Chamber conn-
 ection.

Jim SeabrookNo.37LITTLE CANYON CAVE9.1.73

PRESENT: Henry Shannon, Graham Love, Glenn Hunt, Geoff Francis, Bruce Harper, Miles Pierce.

Went in muttering about digging prospects at the downstream end of the canyon, also mentioned a hole in Serpentine which I suspected connects through to Little Canyon. Graham was duly inserted in the high level squeeze, and he was able to talk to Miles in Serpentine.

The downstream dig seemed most hopeful because of the draught coming through the opening. But it was very hard to get to the narrow part. The approach adopted was to dig down first so the dig could then be approached easily from the side.

There was a flowstone layer, below the gravel of the dig. The flowstone was in situ. The gravel of the modern grand train was loose. Older gravel had a clay matrix; some layers were plain mud, and rather sloppy.

Henry Shannon

No.38ABERCROMBIE CAVES9.1.73

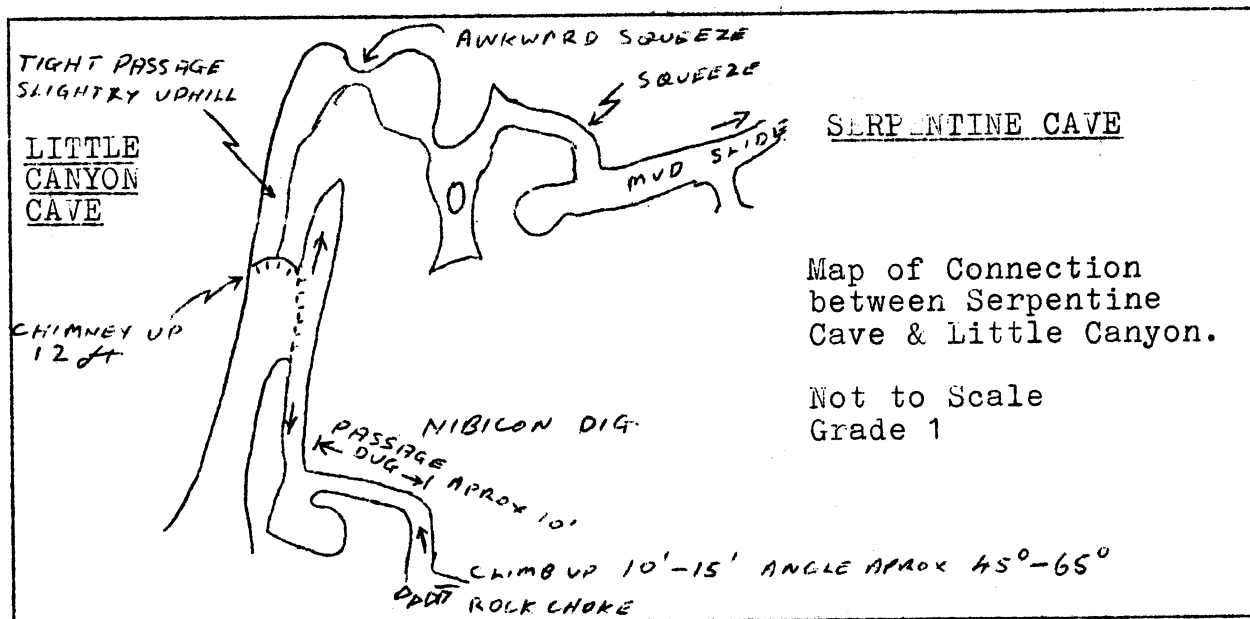
TOURIST TRIP: Viewed King Solomons and Bushrangers - excellent tours.
Guide has good "old timer" type patter.

Pink colouring on roof of arch possibly organic. We collected scrapings from some and given to Ernie Holland for analysis. Also some iron colouring for comparison.

Jim SeabrookNo.39LITTLE CANYON CAVE10.1.73

PRESENT: Graham Love, Peter Crossley, Geoff Francis.

Peter and Geoff dug from Serpentine where voice contact was made the previous day while Graham dug from Little Canyon. Peter managed to dig and squeeze to a small chamber thus digging out a squeeze sufficiently big for Graham to get into the chamber. From there Peter looked up a small passage sloping up at about 60° for about 15 ft (flowstone floor). Both went out squeezes that they went in on.



Peter then left and Geoff went round to Nibicon Dig. Graham dug and Geoff carted dirt for about 1/2 hr (moved approx 1 1/2-2 ft in). Then Graham scraped away top and scrambled into small chamber about 6-7 ft high 10-20 ft long and 4 ft wide. Ended in rock fall. Geoff and Graham tried all the obvious and less obvious possibilities but nothing showed any possibility. There was a sloping passage on the left hand side. That was choked shingle on floor in places of choke were rounded and rather worn. No draught could be located in any of the possibilities or anywhere else. Took some photos and came out. Caving time 5 hrs.

G.R. Love

No.40

TOURISTING IN MAMMOTH10.1.73PRESENT:

Henry Shannon, Ian Wood, Miles Pierce, Marilyn----- (CEGSA)
 Steve Hughes (CEGSA) and some younger Sydney members, approx.3.

Time underground 8 hours.

The object of the trip was to show Mammoth to those still around who hadn't had a proper look at it.

We went down "Lower Level" to the river (by the rockpile) then up into Oolite to look at the formations while I scrambled up the chimney with the rope. Once there I reached around for a place to set up the ladder, and once it was hauled up it proved to be too short for comfort (50') so the whole lot was eventually dismantled and set up lower down (in a bunch of boulders reached by going down a hole in the floor). So we got everyone up. Among these boulders is an unenterable but diggable hole with an air draught.

Lost more time finding the way on (should have checked the Mammoth book first) but eventually got through to Oval Cavern. Here Miles took a number of photographs. We went into Pisa Cavern in two groups after we removed muddy trog gear and boots. The first flowstone staircase is cleaner than when I last saw it.

At this stage John Dunkley came in offering me my last chance for the Precipitous Bluff expedition.

After getting everyone down the ladder I descended by the chimney and went to Glenn's dig to remove a bucket of gravel (as promised). It is a very easy material to remove - all loose gravel. It seems to have filled in very quickly when it stopped running.

Went out, some by 40', some by rockpile, then went to look at the Railway Tunnel. There is charcoal at the far end, just as there is in upper Oolite, lying on the surface of the mud.

There is only one lot of moderately well preserved scalloping in the northern part of the Railway Tunnel, and it is difficult to get at. I did not get a current direction on it.

On the way out I gathered up the telephone wire that has infested the cave since 1960. One of the young lads collected some too.

Henry Shannon

No.41TUGLOW CAVES11.1.73PRESENT:

Ian Wood (L), H. Shannon (UQSS), A. Warild (UNSWSS),
 C. Mathes (UNSWSS), G. Love (NZSS).

After a disastrous start (Garry's car wouldn't start) the party entered Tuglow main at 2.30 p.m. We proceeded downstream via the stream bed and viewed all the crawlways in this section. Vandalism was rife and human offal was noted in 2 areas. We returned to the bottom of the ladder via the top passage. the upstream section was entered via the upper route not quite to 'Olm's 'Orrible 'Ole where we descended down the slot to river level, proceeded upstream until the water became too deep, then downstream and out of the cave. Cave exited at 6.30 p.m.

Ian Wood

No.42OBSERVATIONS AT TUGLOW CAVES (SUB TRIP REPORT)11.1.73PRESENT: Ian Wood, Henry Shannon, Graham Love, 2 others.

4 hours underground ?

I presume Ian has written up the trip already. There are just a few personal comments.

The rock on the river bank is marble, while most of the cave is in gray limestone. The limestone shows insipient cleavage, a lot of stylolites and some shaley beds. Dip is practically vertical.

The cave is remarkably free of rockpile, upward and downward incision is very marked. There is a truly splendid vadose canyon going downstream from the entrance.

I never thought I'd see a cave littered with unburied human turds, or anything like the amount of dumped carbide, batteries and rubbish. The cave is polished, the mud plastered rock hard, and no stains of footholds have had a chance.

Despite the damage, it is possible to mentally reconstruct the cave as you go. It is still a splendid caving cave, in most respects it is nicer than Mammoth.

H. ShannonNo.43SURFACE TROGGING BETWEEN DEVILS COACH HOUSE AND
NO.2 CAR PARK11.1.73PRESENT: P. Toomer, J. Seabrook, N. Rawlinson.

The day was bad enough to prompt surface trogging. Working from descriptions from Seagoon's radio data we "refound" Maidenhair Cave and surveyed it; the cave entrance is a small hole behind a stump, the cave then goes horizontally for about 5m then goes down at 60° for about 10m. We then set off to survey "Fire-Pit", which was successfully carried out; Noel unfortunately added his initials "Big Red 1973" to those of J. Wilson and J.J. Morz(?) 1884. At this stage Noel left and Jim and I headed up to Dreamtime Cave, a large overhang with one small active extension high on the hill. The cave displays some incredible gravel beds at high level and requires further investigation!! We surveyed the cave and overhang and noticed two rifts in the hillside so we climbed up and found one more small hole in the cliff and surveyed it and Tittybottle Cave (the two rifts). Jim then returned at high level whilst I returned the way I had come.

Philip Toomer

No.44MAMMOTH - SOUTHERN SECTION & ACCIDENT REPORT12.1.73PRESENT: P. Toomer, J. Seabrook, A. Warild, M. Culley, S. Newbold.

Aim - to place charcoal bags.

We entered at about 1230 and headed to Grinning Monster Lake and placed one charcoal bag, we then headed off to Smirnoffs Passage. The first squeeze is blocked with gravel so we went to Lower River and placed one bag and started to head for Slug Lake. Phil made a successful crossing and Alan followed but cut and badly bruised his knee in the effort so the knee was bandaged with a triangular bandage (from my pocket) and clothes were collected to keep Alan warm at the top of the mudslide whilst Jim and Co went to get a ladder so that Alan could get out. Eventually the traverse was rigged and Alan removed, the traverse derigged and Philip climbed back. The trip out was fairly efficient although Alan couldn't bend one leg. Alan jumared out rather than climb the ladder pitch.

Lesson: a triangular bandage in one's pocket is useful.

: shock does set in quickly and warmth is a problem.

: an injury on the wrong side of Lower River is a reasonably serious proposition for rescue.

: voice procedure on ladders requires to be uniform.

: smoking in caves is unfortunate.

: all members of a party should wear waist lengths.

Philip ToomerNo.45PLAYING FIELDS CAVE - HENRY'S HOLE12.1.73PRESENT: J.R. Dunkley, G. Matthew

Time: 3 hours

Grade 4 survey of Playing Fields cave, drawn up on 1:100. This is an old inflow stream sub cave, possibly contemporaneous with Frenchmans Cave. It is more or less level in sharp contrast to Henrys Hole which is also a stream sub, but descends rapidly thru some awkward vertical squeezes. Definite prospects of extensions with minimal digging and some sledgehammer work. PFC - strenuous work ahead to extend - could go.

J. DunkleyNo.46IMPERIAL AND CHIFLEY CAVES12.1.73PRESENT: J. Dunkley, G. Matthew, E, E and various others Holland.

Placed charcoal bag in Imperial River. Level is up because draught requires a backup in pumping section level. Continued to Hitch of Bacon, Chifley Cave. Extensive mud-floored mazey section, full of roof channels and roof pendants, rough Gr.3 map produced, Ernie to do more later.

Names noted in Hitch of Bacon, Chifley Cave, 12.1.73.

Emily Doust 1870; (? Whalan) (R. Jones); J. Wilson; G. Palmer; Geo.L.(?); Geo.Br.(?)

William Hunter 1896; L. Rich 70; T. Wilson 1871; H.N. Gilman (Tillan?);

(C. Lea, R. Jones, S. Dunbrell 2/1/90); E.M. Mahoney 1871 Bathurst;

F.J. Wilson 1877(?); James; Hamilton.

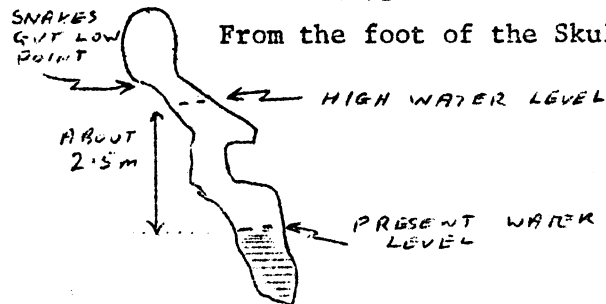
John Dunkley

PRESENT: Henry Shannon, Ian Wood, Graham Love.

9 hours.

Our party was to place charcoal watchers throughout Northern Mammoth and place the fluorescein while the other group led by Philip Toomer was to do Southern Section.

Slow start from Hampton - frantic search for stockings also need to crush the lump fluorescein to manageable powder. On the way in I noticed a stronger than usual blast at the Cold Hole. My waist loop was left at the Skull and Crossbones (I would advise parties to use a waist loop for a short fixed line over the area, whenever it is wet. In the old days the backholds were less slippery and the foothold was bigger and 6" higher).



From the foot of the Skull and Crossbones rockpile we set off through the Snakes Gut. The water level was low and the water was out of sight. To get to the water I slid down the slide, down a hole to the right then down to the water. One bag was placed here as far under water as I could get it.

The next bag was put in Ice Pick Lake. The water level is down here too and the remaining part of the lake can be seen to get very deep indeed. The bag was weighted with a stone and thrown into deep water. Some string was tied to the other end of the wire and fastened or laid over the mud, which is normally water covered.

I wonder if the low water is partly the result of the floods earlier in the year making freer passage for the water.

Next a bag was put in what's left of Central Lake. For some time it has been possible to hear water running further upstream, but only in 1972 has a delta of muddy sand built out into what used to be deep water. The bag was placed ahead of the delta front. The water level fell by about 0.1 metres during the field trips.

At this stage I did a calculation on the number of bags available and decided not to put one at the First Crossing. To my surprise there was a bag on the wire that must have been left since the last fluorescein test. The one from the creek opposite Serpentine about the middle of last year. I took the bag out for collection on the way out. Next stop was the Breezehole, a bag was left in the drinking pool 3' from Breezehole.

At the mouth of the Infinite Crawl was another bag, which was collected, and yet another where the broken rock starts in the overflow. When I placed this one before it was in running water but now it was dry. I doubt if the Infinite Crawl one got wet at all. (This one may have been left from an even earlier test.) I went on to place bags in both the big streams watering the end sump of the overflow. The first stream has a small tributary entering from the left 3m before the sump. This is almost certainly the stream from the Breezehole. The charcoal packet was placed upstream of this junction. The watcher for the second stream was placed just where it enters the sump.

No.47 (Contd.)

Going on to the 2nd river crossing - surprise - 2 packets left over from previous testing. One near the place where the water is first seen on old rusty wire. I think this one is very old or else placed by John Dunkley. The other was at Onmenez and probably dates from the opp-Serpentine Creek test. (I recall changing the packets not very long after the fluorescien was placed. The ones I collected were negative. It is quite possible that more time was needed for the dye to come through. It would be very interesting if positive results can be got after such a long time.)

Taking a calculated guess that we could get the fresh bags for Onmenez and 1st crossing tomorrow we set off for Great North Cavern. It took an hour or so to get up the North Tunnel. Then down to Twiddley-on-Pom. The draught in the downstream outlet squeeze was very strong. Graham Love was left to dig there while Ian and I went through Mud-In-Your-Eye squeeze to the river. There we set to to mix the cuastic soda-fluorescien with water in our bash hats - mostly done by Ian as it was to be uncontaminated. We made a little artificial pool where the water goes through a crack. By the finish we were diverting water down towards the squeeze so we carefully removed our dam before leaving. The first bash hat full of fluorescien solution was placed at 7.00 p.m. and the last of the 1½ lbs at 7.30 p.m.

When we finished we went to see how Graham was getting on. He had got out of sight but had had to dig all the way and still had 5' or so to go before open crawlway would start, and more digging would be needed after that. He had opened up 10' of choked passage.

From there we bolted out, no green colour at 2nd crossing yet. We collected all the bags trying to keep track of which bag in which packet. Got back to Hampton House after all others had gone to bed.

H. Shannon

No.48MAMMOTH AGAIN13.1.73

PRESENT: Henry Shannon, Peter Downes, lad from P.S.G. wearing sandals..
4½ hours approx.

This time the job was to place packets wherever they hadn't been placed before and to see if the dye had come through and if so how far and how strongly.

We got to the first crossing at 4.00 p.m. No colour (except by wishful thinking). Placed charcoal bag. On to 2nd crossing where the water was brilliant green. We muddied the water in Dry siphon in the hope of colouring the trickle in the overflow thought to be the Waterfall Passage stream. Both the main streams entering the Overflow sump were brilliant green. Perhaps the colour in the 2nd stream was not quite as strong. The trickle was clear. If looked at wishfully it was slightly cloudy and with the merest trace of green and slightly larger than the waterfall stream.

The stillwater pool passed on the way in was also brilliant green. A charcoal bag was placed in it, tied with string to the rock spanning the hole at the top. On the way out we took a harder look at first river crossing. While it looked colourless by carbide light and electric light, if the lead acid high beam was shone into the water from a few inches away, the beam itself showed green in the water. The same effect could be seen in Central Lake. This was at about 7.00 p.m.

We left and got out in time for a bite at the kiosk before the smoke concert.

Henry Shannon

PRESENT: I. Lewis (L), P. Toomer, B. Welch, G. Foy.

The long-awaited G.N.C. Extension trip did not start at 7⁴⁸ a.m. as strenuously advertised since "Fearless Leader" arrived from Yagby at midnight and gabbled away for 2 further hours with the other late-night-owls. The party eventually left at 8.45 a.m. and drove 5 miles before Greg decided that he'd rather tackle the trip with a light! So back again and off again, so that we arrived at the cave entrance at 9.30 a.m. Then Ian's helmet light packed up and Bruce's carbide tried some weird tricks, necessitating a quick thrash back to the car for more bits (known as spare parts). So at 10.30 we wandered off down the rockpile and raced through to Horseshoe Cavern where we spent 10 minutes or so trying to find "Skull and Crossbones". Bruce rigged a 15' hand line over the traverse section of "S & C" which sped up the process no end by doing away with the aerial gymnastics usually needed. We spent some time blundering and guessing our way down to Central River with various bods leading at various times, and noted that the water in the Lake was unaffected but the water at 2nd Crossing was oh so green! (In fact nearly yellow.) Then we embarked on "IT" (ie the North Tunnel) and arrived in G.N.C. 2 hrs and 40 mins after leaving the entrance chamber.

We had lunch at the creek bed junction in Twiddly-Om-Pom for a brief 15 minutes since I wanted to get stuck into the dig as quickly as possible. Bruce and Ian dug, while Phil and Greg surveyed T-O-Pom and coordinated its entrance with the G.N.C. and the end of North Tunnel.

At 4.45 pm, Phil suggested we make tracks as all were expected at the Jenolan Smoke concert at 9 pm. I sent Bruce into the dig to try and squeeze through but he'd run out of steam after 2 hours' digging so Ian had a last-ditch desperation dig-scrabble and broke through a near impossible breathe-out-type S-bend mud squeeze into new passage. Bruce suddenly found vast new reserves of energy and both roared through an estimated 150 feet of passage with another 150 feet (estim.) of side passages. We followed the main stream bed noting the existence of 3 other small stream beds coming in (2 from the east from upper chambers and one from the west) and at the point where we stopped (by now well pressed for time) the main stream bed could be seen to ramble on, still heading south-southeast. The stream beds were all dry except the small one from the western side which contained a string of pools and wet rocks indicating quite recent flow.

Two of the 3 upper chambers were very briefly looked at, and one appeared to continue in several directions, while the end one "more or less" closed off (ie 2 minutes flashing around with our only weak torch revealed no great extensions).

Potential, is "Yes, Yes!" and a trip to Mammoth is being run next weekend (20-21st January) to explore and survey it. Initial indications are that it may ultimately connect to the Ohmenez Squeeze in Central River, as suggested by Henry Shannon, although there was some surprise at the news that stream beds appeared from the eastern side of the main passage as I am told that we are fast running out of limestone in that direction.

DIGS TO THE NORTH

Two possibilities exist that I am aware of at present. The first is a northward-heading squeeze which was used as a gravel dump in the last-ditch desperation dig-scrabble when I was pushing into the new extension.

No.49 (Contd.)

It disappears off the first corner of the S-bend squeeze and MAY go underneath the small cavern above where we first entered the dig. Looks like hard, tight work with a roof which doesn't look too stable and to get into it one has to go through the S-bend squeeze to the new chamber, turn around and go back into it again to even get at it. Hard work but it may be worth it.

The second and far more promising dig is at the far end of the small cavern in which we first find the successfully negotiated dig of this trip. Henry Shannon on p.41 of this log book says that it looks unrewarding and means too much work for prospects. I disagree strongly and suggest that this be pushed even harder than the southerly dig (ie the one we broke through on this trip) as 15 feet of passage can be seen. It is no smaller than a rabbit burrow and could be negotiated with some effort after a healthy dig. This is where the cave lies that has been the subject of much speculation.

A map follows of C.R.G.I standard with explanatory notes. Its scale is very rough but will be modified by next week's trip.

EPILOGUE: We took 2 hours exactly to the bottom of the ladder pitch and felt quite pleased with ourselves on a successful work trip, with new holes and a survey following hard on the heels of exploration. Thank you Mammoth Cave!

Ian Lewis

No.50

STILL MORE MAMMOTH HYDROLOGY!

14.1.73

PRESENT: Henry Shannon, Beverley Riley, Ron Murray

Now the job was to complete placement of charcoal bags in Southern section. The other party had not got across the river, nor found the water in the Oolite loop and had found Smirnoff passage blocked. On checking out Oolite loop I found the hole was still there but the water was not. Across the lake the slot to water, just before the pretties chamber, looked dry also, but when I got down it there was a pool 0.5m across, water level was 2m below normal. Visible below the water was a boss of flowstone and the water then gets much deeper below it and the underwater cave opens out.

A weighted bag was placed at depth, the wire to the bag was attached to string which is tied round the pillar at the top of the pitch.

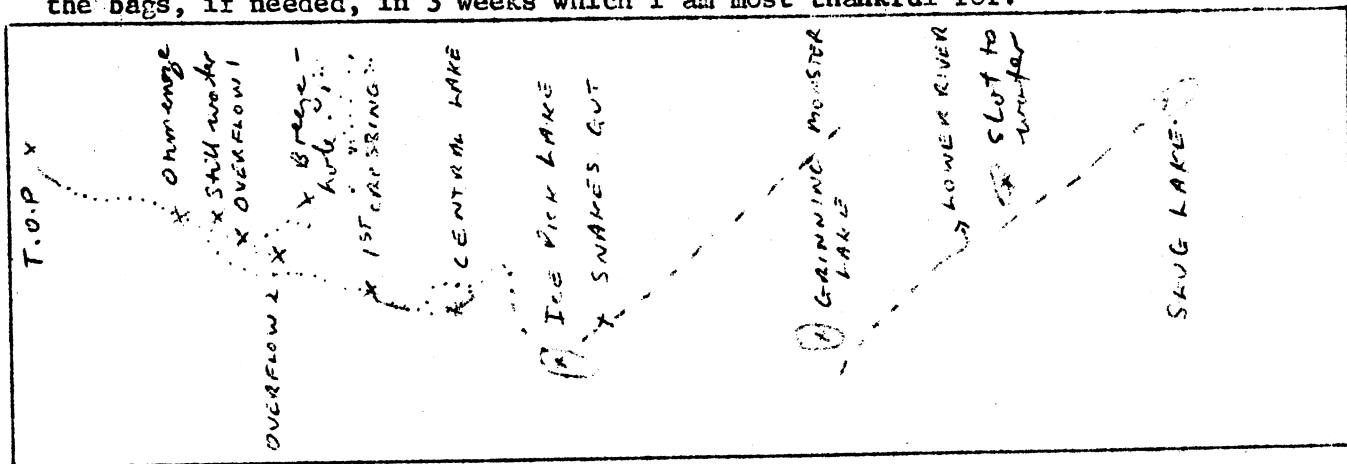
Going on to Slug Lake, this lake was also down by about 2m which made it very easy to pass on to the chimney which is the far end of the cave. The deep water could also be seen, it opens out below into a big underwater hall. 2 bags were placed, one shallow attached to wire, the other deep attached to string. The wire is held by being rammed into the mud, below 'normal' water level, the string is laid back along the passage till it is well above normal water level.

We did not have time to go to Ice Pick Lake so we went straight out. Crossing the river was a mess up. I fell starting off, while Beverley made a beautiful splosh in the deep part. There had been visitors while we were away the message Hi picked out in stones - and a rock left in the pack. Ron carried it out to the base of the 40 foot and made the comment "What have you got in this pack Beverley, it feels like its got a rock in it."

No.50 (Contd.)

I later found from the SSS group that Ashley Cody and Millie Hall (NZSS) were there with an SSS 'guide'. It figures.

Bob Hawkins offered me the services of the next SSS trip to pick up the bags, if needed, in 3 weeks which I am most thankful for.



Henry Shannon

No.51MASSOCHISTS TO GREAT NORTH CAVERN ONCE MORE! 20.1.73

(ie we got out at 12.30 am)

PRESENT: Bruce Welch (L) (PSG-SUSS), Robert Mannell (UNSWSS), John Bosler (UNSWSS), Greg Foy (PSG).

The latest start ever was made - we started in at 12 o'clock noon and sprinted in to Skull & Crossbones where a sling was set up for safety's sake. A quick thrust brought us to Central Lake and soon after were wending our way through the Middle Bit rockpile. By 3 p.m. we were in G.N.C. - ½ hour later we had descended into Twiddly-On-Pom. After having a quick lunch we proceeded into the new extension. The first passage to the right was explored by Bruce and John and after wallowing full length in sloppy mud and climbing up 2m we entered a chamber 6 x 4m, the roof of which appeared to terminate at about 13m. There was water dripping out of the roof of this clean wet rising shaft. Coming out we became so muddy (ie compared to the passage into GNC) that we decided to call it "The Paris Sewer".

We continued on looking up all possible holes. Sometimes we were crawling along the stony creek bed, sometimes over mud banks and infrequently we were able to walk.

There is one big chamber in this new section which is 23m long and up to 7m wide. It consists mainly of an ascent up a rock and mud slope and contains some large fallen boulders - this chamber is formed along the bedding plans.

The stream bed was pushed till a sump was reached - here the roof became much lower and the stream had gouged out a dip which was filled with 28cm of water. It appears to narrow down. The only way to push on would be to bail the water out and then dig!!! A mud slope and light squeeze was pushed by John and ended in a small chamber with rocks in the bottom.

No.51 (Contd.)

We then started the slow job of surveying out. This was laborious and most of us were shaking with the cold and wetness. After a bite to eat we thrutched up the ladder, pushed it out and rolled it. Set off from GNC at 9.50 p.m. Three charcoal bags were collected on the way out, one upstream of the bypass, one at central river crossing and one at Central Lake. There is no lake at all in Central Lake and the river flow in Central River was lower than the previous Saturday.

We arrived at the bottom of the entrance pitch at 12.05 a.m. and were all out by 12.35. Ladder and rope to be taken out next day.

NOTE: 2½ hour trip from GNC to entrance pitch with 60' ladder - a record?

Bruce set a record by going to GNC 3 times in 2 weeks.

Map of Twiddly-~~Om~~-Pom extensions available through SUSS and PSG.

Bruce Welch

BLUE LAKE TURNED GREEN AT 3 PM 18.1.73

No.52NOT NIBICON, BUT NEARLY AS GOOD!

10.2.73

PRESENT:

A. Pavey (L) (UNSWSS), B. Riley (SUSS), D. Perkins (UNSWSS),
C. Fisher (UNSWSS), R. Daniels (MUSIG).

The Great GNC bash Yet Again

The aim of the trip was to survey GNC to determine whether the squeezes at its northern end were further north than Central River in Twiddley-~~Om~~-Pom.

After getting entangled in a party to Lower River etc. we headed off up to GNC and caught the SSS party on the other side of "dry siphon" which was unfortunately as dry as it's ever been. The leader discovered at this point that he had forgotten pen and paper. There was an unexpected pool of water near triangle passage which caused problems, the pool at Formation Squeeze was as yucky as ever.

Lunch was had in GNC and thence down to T-O-P. From the top of the Gordian Knot pitch the water could be heard roaring in T-O-P below.

The main stream from Mud-in-Your-Eye Squeeze through to New South Extension was flowing at about 200 millicusecs (bleak!) and N-S was blocked by water. The squeeze to the north noted previously by Pavey and Lewis (pp 25-26, 54-55) was flowing north to south at about 70 millicusecs hence suggesting that it's a flood overflow of Central River and hence a good dig. Mud-In-Your-Eye Squeeze was full of water.

The blind shaft above "up & over" (see 2J13 p.3) was climbed by Pavey for about 8m above the stream (rather hairy - loose gravel and slippery mud) to find a north going gravel-bedded dry stream passage. Whilst Pavey explored Daniels joined him but the obvious "stream" emerged from a tight hole in the wall (10cm²). A continuation was followed for a further 4m to a mud dig. About 2m can be seen about 10cm air space - possibilities not considered good but someone ought to do something in 10 years time.

Party retired up Gordian-Knot pitch and noted carbide arrows showing way out to GNC. For Christs Sake if you're competent enough to get to GNC why do you need arrows to find your way out to GNC from T-O-P? Caught up to SSS at Skull & Crossbones and overtook them. It was raining outside.

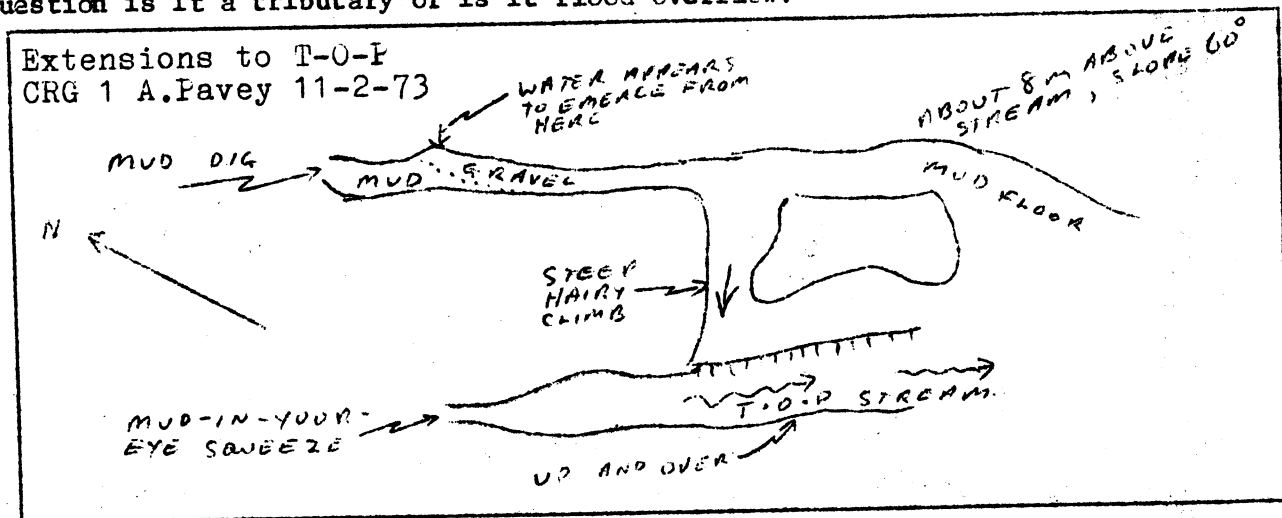
No.52 (Contd.)

Hydrology:

Central Lake up to level of stepping stones Central River at Lake higher flow than at T-O-P. Dillons Creek not flowing past comp site at lunch time but was at midnight.

First road crossing below Mammoth flowing at lunch time but not at midnight, yet flow at Playing Fields higher!

Cave generally wet and dripping with lower than normal flow in Waterfall passage and some (very low) flow from campsite towards CR. Interesting that North East dig in T-O-P flowing about 1/3 of main T-O-P stream. Question is it a tributary or is it flood overflow?



Andrew Pavey

No.53

SLUG LAKE - MAMMOTH

10.2.73

PRESENT:

B. Welch (L) (PSG-SUSS), R. Tunney (PSG-SUSS), G. Fox, S. Tomas, B. Denny (ass PSG).

After mucking around with cars we dropped into Mammoth about lunchtime and pushed on down the fig hold. We couldn't find the Forty Foot??? so we hopped through the rockpile and we reached the turn off to Grinning Monster Lake. We were amazed by the amount of water - flowing down the walls - many pools in the floor. The passage to Pretties Cavern had plenty of water flowing out of the roof.

There was a big pool of water just before Lower River which had to be bridged. Due to the fact that noone in the party had been across Lower River before we ended up stripping off completely and swimming across. We scrambled up the mud slope, down which water was flowing, mainly from water coming out of the roof.

The passage marked on the map as "small rimstone pools" was full of water through which we had to wade-not knowing the way we blundered into the rockpile. After sliding down a short steep mudslope - straight into a deep lake, we swam around but didn't find Henry Shannon's charcoal bags. We then charged out calling in at Denis in Dens dig then out via Grinning Monster Lake to pick up charcoal bag.

NB A small passage to the right before the 8' drop on the way to Slug Lake was explored by Bruce and it was in here that originated a peculiar gurgling sucking noise which would indicate a large river - Lower River perhaps? B.R.Welch

No.54ALADDIN CAVE - SURVEYING10.2.73PRESENT: B. Hyde (L), J.R. & J.G. Dunkley

Brendon continued his Gr.6 map of the cave to the end Pretties section. Some further exploration attempted, without success, through 2-squeeze.

J. DunkleyNo.55JUBILEE CAVE11.2.73PRESENT: J. Dunkley, B. Hyde, R. Tunney

Fast (running, 25 minutes return from Grand Arch) trip to Water Cavern to place a charcoal bag. Water running app.0.05 cusecs. Fluorescein placed in creek McKeowns Valley, about 2 pm. Creek advancing, was sinking just before 1st bridge in gorge coming downstream.

Subsequent info - no show of fluorescein at Blue Lake.

J. DunkleyNo.56GLENNZDIG, OOLITE CAVERN, MAMMOTH - GENERAL COMMENTS

This started on Saturday 30th December 1972

PRESENT: Grant Gartrell and Tom Wigley (GEGSA)

Removed one large rock and dug another ten feet in loose gravel. Pinch-bar very useful to loosen gravel in confined space.

Next day another party advanced by about 6'.

Tuesday another party advanced another 3 feet. Henry Shannon inspected dig and agreed it was worth pushing hard.

Dig continues to be in a meandering roof canyon of a large gravel filled passage. "Serpentinious" bends make gravel removal difficult. At present dig is going downhill slightly and expired CO₂ tends to pool here making digging unpleasant. It must be emphasised that along with Denzdig this is the only real prospect at present for getting into Woolly Rhinoceros.

Suggestions for further digging -

(1) Dig should be enlarged by starting a new bench and driving in. This will give more room to dig and improve air circulation.

(2) Air circulation could also be improved by long length of garden hose attached to bellows.

(3) Construction of Les Chin's Gravel Remover which was used successfully on J41 (see Aust. Spelio Abstracts - 1971 I think for details and reference).

NOTE: This dig is a good one and should be pushed. Reationale behind this dig is to be written up elsewhere.

Written by Glenn Hunt

with disadvantage of hindsight after listening to reports from those involved in digging.