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A.S.F. NEWSLETTER.

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By way of introduction :

Pressure of work has again adversely affected this issue of the Newsletter - our worthy Publications Officer has not been heard from since a letter announcing he expected a transfer to a remote section of the New Guinea Highlands, and would possibly be unable to continue. So as to maintain our continuity of issue, this is being prepared in Melbourne as a replacement for Gordon's own efforts. The publications officer is therefore hardly to be blamed for errors, typographical or otherwise.

The December issue, which is also in the course of preparation here, will make up for the slimness of this issue, as it will not only contain current news, but also the final agenda for the next Committee meeting and the Annual Report of the Federation.

- Elery Hamilton-Smith.
President A.S.F.

In the Wilds of Tasmania.

I have just returned from a very pleasant holiday in Tasmania, and was entertained nobly by members of T.C.C., as well as visiting many of the very fine caves there. Most interesting item of news is that three members of the Northern Branch of the T.C.C. were trapped beyond a siphon in Marakooa Cave at Mole

Creek recently. Fortunately the Search & Rescue system of the Club worked well, and they were able to be salvaged unharmed, but wiser. Congratulations are due to this Club for their effectiveness in coping with what could have been an unpleasant accident. This is just another incident to remind us that we must always be aware of risk in this pursuit of ours.

Re Penman and records.

The attempt by Bill Penman to gain a world cave-sitting record has gained considerable attention both within and without A.S.F. in the last year. It recently came to the notice of the Executive that Penman was about to attempt another similar venture in the 16-mile cave. In view of the many protests received from those who have seen the fantastic desecration of the cave during the last attempt, it was decided that we would write to Mr. Penman suggesting he desist from this latest attempt, as well as to make protest to the relevant authorities in the Territory. It was felt that we cannot stand silent when all principles of cave conservation are being so flagrantly violated as in this case.

Nullarbor Expedition.

The last circular to participants in this expedition was a most impressive report of progress in organization. A forty passenger bus has been arranged to provide transport for the party. All other details appear to have been equally well organized, and members of the party have been attracted from four States. It is to be hoped that the expedition itself is as smooth-running as the preliminary organization, as the team responsible have done a fine job.

Please remember to notify the Secretary of your delegate to the next Committee Meeting - Melbourne, Jan. 25-27, 1964.

Recent Correspondence of Interest.

Another application for membership has been received for hearing at the next meeting - this time from the well-established Highland Caving Group of N.S.W., who have already been associated with other N.S.W. Societies in joint trips.

Another letter of interest comes from the Progress Association at Chillagoe, Qld. (Sec. - Mr. A.J. Freney) seeking advice or help in forming a Society in their area. Any members who happen to be visiting the area may care to contact Mr. Freney personally.

Recent Publications :

Bulletin of the Portuguese Speleological Society (2nd. Series.)

This bulletin has now graduated to a bound and multilithed journal of good standard. The first issue contains a long paper on the importance of cave biology for Bio-geographical study and a number of cave descriptions. (Any translators, please ?)

Coal Miners' Safety Helmets. Aust. Standards M5, 1963.

A recent standard prepared by the Standards Assoc. which may interest the equipment officers.

Handbook of the Tasmanian Caverneering Club - 1963 edn.

A new and better edition of this very useful handbook. Contains good practical advice directed to the novice, but a very useful reminder to the experienced. A number of inaccuracies occur in the section dealing with the structure and formation of caves, but otherwise a truly excellent booklet. (Price 5/-)

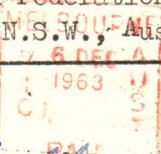
Bulletin of the National Speleological Society, U.S.A.

The July 1962 issue is devoted to Cave Mineralogy, with a number of worth-while papers. In the Jan. 1963 issue, Victor Caumartin gives an excellent review of Cave Microbiology. Other papers include one on the use of caves as fallout shelters (!)

C.D. Ollier, The Skipton Lava Caves, Vict. Nat., 80, 181-83.
(Oct., 1963.)

A useful description with historical and mineralogical data.
A survey of the cave is also included.

'A.S.F. NEWSLETTER' - by the
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Mr G Wallis
c/- Geological Survey Dept
Dept of Mines
11 Gough St
Sydney NSW

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