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A.S.F. NEWSLETTER.

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THE ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1963.

I have great pleasure in presenting our Annual Report.
We have had a busy year and some definite progress has been made.
I feel this has been a good year.

A few highlights which may be mentioned here and which will
be detailed elsewhere in the report, are :-

1. Registration of the Newsletter as a periodical.
2. An exceptionally active year on the part of the N.S.W. Co-ordinating Committee.
3. Considerable growth of the library, together with indexing of most of it, and a gradual increase in requests from members.
4. An increased interest in cave conservation.
5. The inauguration of a newsletter devoted to bat research.
6. New membership applications from five societies.

However, before proceeding to a detailed review of the year's work, it has been decided to take the opportunity to review briefly the history of the Federation, its growth, progress and problems.

It is not proposed that the constitution be amended (again) at this point, but rather that we discuss the aims and functions of the Federation with a view to clarifying them. Perhaps amendments will grow from these at a future date, but thorough and prolonged thought appears vital at this stage of our development.

E.H-S.

THE HISTORY OF A.S.F.

Preliminary discussions regarding the inauguration of the Federation commenced in N.S.W. as early as 1955, and in due course a letter was circulated jointly by S.S.S. and S.U.S.S. to other Australian societies suggesting the development of a Federal Body. Considerable interest was shown in this proposition, and C.E.G.S.A. suggested that a National Conference be held in South Australia during Christmas week 1956 in conjunction with an expedition to the Nullarbor Plains. Over 80 cavers attended this conference, held at Parnanga near Adelaide. The Federation was officially inaugurated with 14 member societies. Brian O'Brien was elected President, Elery Hamilton-Smith Secretary, Ben Nurse Treasurer, and Ron Anderson Librarian.

At this time it might be noted that the whole business agenda of the Conference became concerned with the development of a Constitution, and little or no attention was paid to the functions or machinery of the Federation. However, it was suggested that the Federation meetings be limited to a biennial conference with associated field trips, and a committee meeting on the alternate years to be held at a time other than Christmas so not to interfere with major trips during this period.

A concept firmly built into the Constitution at this point was that the governing committee was to consist of one voting delegate from each society. Elected office-bearers have no vote, and are in fact the servants of the Committee.

The following meetings have been Held so far :-

Inaugural Conference	Adelaide	Christmas 1956
Committee Meeting	Sydney	January 1958
Conference	Hobart	Christmas 1958
Committee Meeting	Melbourne	January 1960
Conference	Canberra	Christmas 1960
Committee Meeting	Sydney	January 1962
Conference	Kempsey	Christmas 1962

We are now approaching the January 1964 Committee Meeting in Melbourne, with a Conference scheduled for Perth in December this year also.

It might be noted that the Hobart Conference again devoted considerable time to polishing the Constitution, and some discussion was also held on this at Canberra, but the Kempsey Conference was free of it. An increasing amount of time has been devoted to the discussion of common problems and common interests. Excellent work has been done by sub-committees who have been concerned with such matters as survey, ethics, terminology, conservation, etc.. Conferences have now swung more to the presentation of papers and reports on various aspects of caving and cave science.

THE ROLE OF A.S.F.

The Federation has acted to disseminate information among societies, to foster joint efforts and regular contact between them, to set standards in such aspects as ethics and conservation, to act as a liason body with international contacts, and to develop a library.

As was only to be expected, many problems were encountered, and some friction existed between societies. However in overcoming these, steady progress has been made and the Federation grows stronger year by year.

Certain principles of Federation policy which have clearly emerged from debate in recent years are worth highlighting as these are often re-Opened in later discussion by societies not aware of earlier decisions. The first is that the Federation can only be a co-ordinating body - it cannot and should not control its member societies; the second is that the keeping of trip reports and maps is a society responsibility, not the Federation's; and third, business should not be discussed at a meeting unless due notice has been given.

This latter point is one of considerable importance. Many of the disagreements in recent years have resulted from the introduction of new business during the meeting. It would appear wise that a by-law might be enacted prohibiting a meeting from dealing with any such business. Another suggestion which has been made is that greater progress might be achieved if meetings were to concentrate on points of common agreement rather than upon those matters to which considerable opposition was raised. This might ultimately be embodied in a constitutional clause which demanded more than a simple majority to pass any motion. At this stage it is desired only to raise the issue for discussion and to highlight the need for unity and harmony if we are to achieve an effective national body.

THE EXECUTIVE OF A.S.F.

A frequent point of difficulty has been the appointment of the executive. Many enthusiastic individuals have undertaken the task of an office on the executive and then, often through circumstances beyond their control, have been unable to carry out their responsibilities. However it is pleasing to see that in each year a higher proportion of our executive have carried out their task conscientiously. Perhaps those offering in earlier years did not realise until in office, the formidable load of work they were undertaking.

Some thought also needs be given to the very careful selection of executive members both able and willing to carry out the work of their office. It is also desirable that provision be made for an element of continuity in the executive so that the experience and contacts gained are kept within our organization - yet this must be balanced by continual introduction of new personnel. The Secretary has further comments on this subject - see page 8.

THE FUTURE OF A.S.F. We have made considerable progress, but we need further planning, stronger administrative machinery, greater unity between all societies, and a better level of decision-making on the part of our annual meetings. This means each society thinking about the Federation more seriously, each appointing the best possible delegate to the Committee and supporting the Committee in the decisions which they make.

Elery Hamilton-Smith - President.

A NOTE FROM THE TREASURER

The financial report and audited Statement of Accounts will be presented at the Committee Meeting as will the 1964 proposed budget.

The few remaining unfinancial societies are reminded that they may be slightly embarrassed by the financial report if they do not come across with the necessary and stop free-loading on other societies. They are also reminded that they will not, under the constitution, have any vote at the meeting.

John A. Noonan - Treasurer.

THE SECRETARY'S REPORT.

MEMBERSHIP The present membership of the Federation stands at 14 societies, of whom 11 are financial and contain 336 individual members, while those three which are unfinancial contain possibly 90 members. One society, not included above, has tendered its resignation and another has disbanded.

In addition, five new applications have been submitted with an approximate total membership of between 60 and 70 members.

SUBSCRIPTIONS The traditional manner in which the subs have dribbled in throughout the year and then only after a good deal of troublesome and expensive coaxing by the treasurer indicates that the present system is not all that it could be. Some discussion needs to be given to this problem at the coming meeting and then some practical alterations made.

The most common excuse, and, it must be admitted, a reasonably legitimate one, is that people are waiting for money and membership numbers to reach more realistic proportions after the end of their financial year. Most of the financial years end at different times.

A further factor now introduced to the question is that of Newsletter Subs., which under postal regulations must be in, in our case, by March, and must be accounted separately. They must also, for practical purposes, obviously coincide with the financial membership of the Society at that time, rather than at the end of the previous financial year as at present.

One suggestion, agreed to in principle by the present Treasurer is that subs be reckoned on the financial membership as at the beginning of the year, i.e. Jan., and be payable at this time. The amount paid should then coincide with the

number on an accompanying Newsletter address list or on an already existing list from the previous year. Additions or alterations are then made as required during the year, but no extra money is paid until a bill for the extra amount (if any) has been forwarded by the Treasurer, say about October. Memberships have become fairly stable by this date.

SECRETARIAL EXPENSES The big item here has been postage for both circulars and general correspondence. To date (4/1/64) this has amounted to £4-4-7 with a small stock of stamps still unused. Another item has been general stationery amounting to £2-11-7 and a third item, the letterheads, which we had printed for the very reasonable sum of £5-5-7 for 1000 sheets and 200 second pages.

CORRESPONDENCE A large amount of correspondence has been handled during the year - too much in fact for our file box to cope with. As existing facilities are now inadequate, some thought must be given to providing more space. A standard metal correspondence box would prove sufficient for a few more years, when some thought could perhaps be given to acquiring a filing cabinet.

My thanks to those people who have been re-addressing Federation mail throughout the year, both S.S.S. at Broadway and C.E.G.S.A. at Adelaide and apologies to those people whose mail has gone unacknowledged. Time has unfortunately only allowed me to acknowledge that mail requiring a definite reply.

SPELEO HANDBOOK A good deal of realistic thought by various people has gone into the idea of an Australian Speleo handbook. It is felt that we can produce a good quality product which apart from filling a long-felt need, will help put Australian Caving more firmly on the map. It does now need whole-hearted backing in the form of advance subscriptions - pending its acceptance, of course.

OFFICE-BEARERS

It is not election time for another year, but as mentioned earlier by the President, we feel it is time to discuss election methods with a view to improvement. It has been quite clearly shown over recent years that the Federation's advance has been closely dependent upon the co-operation possible between the members of the executive committee. This last year we have been very fortunate in that the President, Secretary, and Treasurer have all been living within a few miles of each other and the resultant ease of communication and co-ordination has, we feel sure, made for a much more efficient administration.

With this in mind, we put forward a further suggestion, which seems almost self-evident :

1. It is preferable to have the President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Publications Officer all residing within easy distance of each other. *
2. Each member of the executive must be genuinely interested in accepting, and capable of doing the job he is to perform
3. All must be capable of working together as an effective team.

This is asking a lot, but we feel the results are well worth the effort.

* The other member of the executive, the Librarian, has not been mentioned here as his job does not require close co-ordination with the others and with the increasing volume of material and indexing required, it is preferable to elect the same librarian for as long as he is both able and willing to continue doing the job in a satisfactory way.

We feel it will be possible to find such a team of four people at one time and in one place. It means that each society must be willing to look around amongst its own members (or among neighbouring societies) to provide a team both able and willing to take the job. Societies should know their own members well enough to know whether they can provide an effective team without undermining their own work.

This definitely implies a one-state executive for the Federation for each period of two years, but the idea that such a team will be too biased to serve the rest of the Federation effectively just does not hold water. We feel safe in saying that the two Victorian Societies have not had a better deal, nor anyone else a worse one, even though three members of the present executive are all members of the one Victorian Society. It must be remembered that the Executive does not govern the Federation - it can only carry out the policy and decisions laid down by the Committee.

If this idea is acceptable, it suggests the nomination of teams at an election. However, this need not preclude individual nominations where a society can provide one or two capable officers, but not a full team. The subsequent voting may be a little complicated, but it is better to spend an extra hour on elections than to spend two years with an ineffective executive.

Strangely enough the proposals above do not involve any change in the Constitution (phew!) and if acceptable, may prove to become standard procedure. Anyway it is to be hoped that this, together with the President's remarks, results in some fruitful discussion. The above does not provide for the continuity mentioned by the President - perhaps some way can be found to combine both.

P. Matthews - Secretary.

THE LIBRARIAN'S REPORT.

CATALOGUING The number of journals in the library is now 166 under 32 titles, which is an increase of 55 and 4 respectively since the beginning of the year. In addition there are 27 separate reprints. These figures do not include Australian newsletters, etc.

Punch card indexing has been slower than was hoped at the beginning of the year, although to date 90% of English language overseas journals have been indexed, with only a few foreign language publications yet attempted. Of the Australian material, less than 50% has yet been indexed, though this is currently in progress.

Translators have been located for French, German, Russian, Polish, Italian, and Portuguese, though time has not permitted me to make contact with all these persons yet. Czechoslovakian, Yugoslavian, and Swedish translators will complete the necessary languages needed at present.

It would be appropriate to note here a few points regarding the punch-card system. Familiarity with the system has pointed to one minor fault of it. This is the practical number of subjects which can be coded on one card. If related, i.e., they come under a common major grouping, no difficulty is experienced, but when a number of general subjects are covered by one article, slight confusion results as to the actual subject coded after sorting. This is very simply overcome by hand sorting the final selection of cards, a procedure which is necessary anyway. In such cases, it can be reduced to a minimum by using two cards for the article in question. It has been found that 100 cards can be sorted for one location and 2 to 4 subjects in under 5 minutes.

I should like to express my thanks to Miss Diana Murphy of S.U.S.S. who has helped greatly by typing the

cards. Also to Mr. Serge Vercion of S.A.S.S. who has made an extremely handsome 2-drawer filing cabinet for storing the punch-cards.

It is pleasing to note that one society has adopted the punch card system 'in toto' for its own library. The group is the Sydney Speleo Soc., the librarian being Mr. Ian Driscoll. Close liason is kept to enable no discrepancies to appear in the classifications used, new subject classifications being allotted by the A.S.F. Librarian as needed. It is hoped that other groups will adopt this method in the future. By using an identical system for other libraries, the individual catalogues may be readily integrated should the necessity arise, and reference to other catalogues can be carried out very simply.

USE OF THE LIBRARY Since January 1st., 1963, eight loans have been made from the library. It has also been possible to obtain a publication from Texas for one enquirer. Returns of periodicals have on the whole been very prompt, though at present one loan is still outstanding since last February. Also one case of thoughtlessness has been noted, viz., the returning of an issue of N.S.S. News folded into four to fit a Christmas card envelope. The following borrowing policy has therefore been adopted by the librarian :

BORROWING POLICY Should a publication be returned in bad condition, no further loan will be made to the person in question until an understanding is received in writing from the said person stating that he will be more careful in future, and will make good any damage to the publication, including replacement, if deemed necessary by the Librarian. The offender in the above case has been advised of this policy, but no reply has been received to date.

Further to the above borrowing policy, the suggestion is made that if the material is kept longer than four months without valid reason and without prior arrangement with the Librarian, then the borrower be subject to a fine of 1/- per volume.

BUDGET The £10 set aside for subscription to an abstracting service has not yet been spent as enquiries are still proceeding. Of the £4 allotted for postage and stationery, £1 - 19 - 3 has been expended as follows:

Postage	7 - 9
Ledger for punch cards	15 - 6
Snap binders for filing	
Aust. newsletters.	16 - 0

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the borrowing policy above be approved and advised to all members of Societies.
2. That translators be obtained for Czechoslovakian, Swedish and Yugoslavian.

PUBLICATIONS IN A.S.F. LIBRARY (Excluding those of member societies)

Australia	Aust. Science Index (C.S.I.R.O.)
	Helictite
Austria	Die Höhle
Czechoslovakia	Speleologický Klub v Brne
France	Annales de Spéléologie
	Bordeaux Speleo & Prehistorical Society
	Spelunca (Comité National de Spéléologie and the Société Spéléologique de France)
	Spéléologie (C.N.S.)
Germany	Contributions to alpine karst studies
	Newsletter of the Verband der Deutschen Höhlen-und-karstforscher.

Great Britain	The British Caver
	Journal of the Mendip Caving Group
Greece	Bull. of the Speleological Soc. of Greece
Hungary	Hungarian Speleological Society
Italy	Rassegna Speleologica Italiana (Organ of the Gruppi Grotte Italiani and the Società Speleologica Italiana)
	La Grotte d'Italia
Poland	Speleologia
Portugal	Bulletin of the Portuguese Speleological Society
Romania	Anuarul Comitetului Geologic (reprint)
South Africa	Bulletin of the South African Speleological Association.
Sweden	Archives of Swedish Speleology
Switzerland	Information Bulletin of the Swiss Speleological Society
	Stalactite (Organ of Société Suisse de Spéléologie)
U.S.A.	Bulletin of the National Speleological Soc. N.S.S. News.
	The Texas Caver
	Annual Report of the Western Speleological Institute.
Yugoslavia	Geografski Zbornik (Geomorphological - Slovak Academy of Science)
	Institutum Geographicum (Acad. of Science)
	Letopis - Slovenske Akademije (Library)
	Naše Jame (Our caves - organ of the Society for the exploration of Yugoslavian caves.)
	Poročila (Karst papers)

PUBLICATIONS OFFICER.

The last letter received from Gordon Bain, our publications officer, was in July and spoke of a possible promotion and transfer to a remote part of New Guinea, in which case he did not expect to be able to continue. To date, we have heard nothing more from him, so in the absence of his own report, we will fill in for him.

THE POSITION OF PUBLICATIONS OFFICER The first point is, of course, that unless we receive word from Gordon before the meeting, we will have to assume that he has been forced to vacate the office, and elect a successor. This is unfortunate, as Gordon had been doing an excellent job. However, this is an extremely important position, as the P/O can do perhaps more than any other office-bearer to promote or reduce the Federation's standing both within our own membership and otherwise.

So far we have one willing candidate in Ted Anderson, Secretary of the Sydney University Speleological Society and one of the organizers of the current Nullarbor Expedition. Ted's organizing and literary ability is by now well-known to most Australian cavers. The position is, of course, still open for further nominations.

PRODUCTION FIGURES The usual four issues of the Newsletter have been produced in the last year. Distribution for this year has been handled by the Secretary, as the P/O's New Guinea residence would greatly increase postage costs if handled direct. Of each issue, 360 are sent to members of member societies, 30 to Australian and New Zealand libraries, and some 60 to overseas scientific and speleological bodies.

OVERSEAS EXCHANGE The exchange literature we are receiving from overseas as a result of our Newsletter far more than repays our expenditure. (See Librarian's report P. 12.) We are receiving a wealth of the latest information on techniques, scientific data, technical experiments, etc., as well as current news, and most of it in high quality publications. All this material is available from the librarian, simply for the asking.

NEWSLETTER QUALITY For various reasons, but particularly in view of the above, it is felt that the time has come to improve the quality of our Newsletter, both in production and content.

Production : Clean-cut ink duplication is a satisfactory minimum standard of reproduction, but if a better method became permanently available, we could well make a change.

The next point is the format itself. The present method is reasonably satisfactory in that it presents a reasonable appearance, holds together well without staples, is easy and economical to post, and uses a standard size sheet. However, the difficulties involved are the extra work involved in the setting out of a multiple-leaved edition (8 or more pages) and the typing of the stencil sideways, necessitating an 18" carriage typewriter or difficulties in cutting and piecing together of stencils. Any suggestions ?

Content : A lot has been said about this over the years so a bit more won't hurt now.

We certainly need society news, even though this seems the hardest to obtain. Don't look around for excuses. The answer is just laziness or lack of interest on the part of those responsible for sending in news.

We also need more news of a technical nature. Many Clubs are carrying out interesting experiments with equipment, techniques, investigations, etc., but very few outside the society ever get to hear of them. Members of other societies rarely get a good look at year books and the like and the information in them lies buried in files as far as the average caver is concerned. A great deal of this information could well go in the newsletter, as well as appearing in the Society's own yearbook.

Other work which should very definitely go in the Newsletter are the papers presented at Federation Conferences. A lot of hard work on the part of the authors, and valuable material, is being lost here because no-one ever gets a written copy for themselves and only those attending the Conference actually hear the papers. Most of the authors have some sort of written copy for themselves and it would take very little extra work to prepare this for printing. Then everyone interested, whether attending the Conference or not, can benefit. The papers will automatically get wide circulation and will show we are not just sitting on our backsides or pottering about in little holes in the ground.

REGISTRATION FOR POSTAGE Registration of the Newsletter has resulted in a vastly improved delivery service to individual members - you now receive each issue a few days after printing instead of possibly a month or two later (if at all) when handed out by the Club Secretary. In addition the cheaper rate of postage saves us at least £4 per year. However, we now have 450 addresses to write for each issue - and this is quite a task!

Accordingly, it is recommended that the Federation acquire a small Addressograph machine for this purpose. A suitable new machine will cost about £26, but we are making enquiries re used machines. The plates, for the

quantity we would need, cost about 11½d. each and about 3d. per alteration of address. It would mean correct addresses, legible addresses, earlier posting, a professional appearance, and a very great deal less work and TIME for the overworked P/O and his unfortunate helpers (if any)

Remember, this newsletter can be a major factor in the Federation's progress.

P.M.

GENERAL NEWS.

Two Scientific Awards of Interest.

The Royal Society of Victoria has announced the presentation of its 1963 Research medal to Mr. D.J. Mulvaney of the University of Melbourne. John Mulvaney has become well-known to many Australian caveers for his work in Australian pre-history. He has carried out a number of archeological excavations in Australian caves and rock shelters, especially at Fromm's Landing on the lower Murray River. During a recent expedition together with Mr. J. Golson of the A.N.U., he has been working in the well-known Kintore Caves at Katherine, N.T.

Also to be congratulated is Mr. N.A. Wakefield, recently awarded the 1962 Australian Natural History Medallion. Norman Wakefield is likewise widely known for his many excavations of sub-recent bone deposits in Victorian Caves and his analysis of this material.

E. H-S.

REPORTS FROM SUB-COMMITTEES.

N.S.W. CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE The Committee has been reasonably active, considering the method used by the Convener to collect ideas from society delegates, i.e., by mail, but it has been slow in its execution. However, all N.S.W. Societies elected delegates to the Committee and the assistance rendered by these delegates has led to what must be considered excellent results.

Two new societies, the Highland Caving Group and the Illawarra Speleological Society were contacted throughout the year - one through a report on cave numbering at Bungonia and the other through the Sydney Speleological Society and the Bungonia clean-up campaign. Both societies have since applied for A.S.F. Membership.

There were no meetings convened during the year as many of the suggestions put forward have not yet reached a stage where the calling of a meeting is justified.

Activities for the year are basically :

1. A report claiming a second numbering system at Bungonia was found to be inconclusive
2. A clean-up of the Bungonia Caves Reserve was suggested by the H.C.G. and successfully carried out. A report of the clean-up appeared in the June issue of the A.S.F. Newsletter
3. Sydney Speleological Society organized a search & rescue week-end at Jenolan. Approximately 30 persons undertook the search and the operation was an unqualified success. It was obvious that the experience gained from the two previous operations had paved the way for success.

Several other points have been raised, some of which have not yet been forwarded to all societies. The main ones are as follows :

1. Setting up of a state-wide Search & Rescue Orgn.
2. Standardization of two-way radio equipment for use in Search & Rescue
3. Further Search & Rescue training but with the accent on the rescue
4. Setting up a loosely organized surveying committee for specified areas and
5. A central clearing house for maps, surveys, and reports controlled by the A.S.F. librarian.

Ian Wood - Convenor.

CAVE CONSERVATION - some further comments.

During the last twelve months, contacts with conservation authorities have been followed up by the Executive, by the N.S.W. Co-ordination Committee and by member societies. Further details of these contacts will be reported at the coming Committee meeting.

Following the receipt of protests regarding the present condition of the 16-mile cave at Katherine, representations have been made to the Northern Territory Reserves Board and to the Administrator of the Territory regarding adequate protection and conservation of the Cave.

On my recent visit to Tasmania, I was most impressed by the conservation policies and the degree of cave protection achieved as a result of close co-operation and understanding between the Caverneering Club and the State Authorities, especially the Scenery Preservation Board. There appear to be three particularly important aspects in this co-operation which might well be copied by other societies :

1. The strong, unified approach by both branches of the Caverneering Club to all aspects of caving.
2. The extremely high standard of caving technique maintained by the Club and their careful control over admission to membership.
3. The involvement and interest of such persons as members of the State Parliament, heads of State departments and other community leaders in the affairs of the Club.

Discussion with conservation authorities in Vict. produced a very valuable and practical suggestion - the classification of our caves according to their priority for conservation. Interestingly, this approach was adopted by the N.S.S. Conservation Committee (U.S.A.) at about the same time as it was suggested to us. This would mean setting up a uses and priority classification system which would be used to classify all caves according to their importance - potential use - palaeontological, biological, anthropological, aesthetic, historical, tourist, training, etc. From this a detailed programme could then be planned. If this idea is felt to be useful, a more detailed plan for operation of such a scheme could be drawn up.

E. H-S.

Abstract :

Mulvaney, D.J., Australian Aboriginal Archaeology
Scientific Australian, I, 1, pp. 17-19 (June 1963)

A brief paper outlining modern field techniques in Archeology. The importance of well-trained and competent investigation of all sites is emphasized.

BAT RESEARCH COMMITTEE

In the absence of David Purchase at Macquarie Island, the President has acted as Convenor of this Committee. The work accomplished in the past year has been:

1. Liason with the Australian Bat-banding Scheme;
2. Assistance in the preparation of the third and fourth Annual Reports of this scheme (in press);
3. Preparation of a field guide to identification of cave-dwelling bats (also in press);
4. Establishment of an occurrence survey of bats in our caves. Some societies have already made a considerable effort in this but more help is needed from all societies; and
5. Inauguration of an informed newsletter - Bat Research News - which will be published by the Division of Wildlife Research of C.S.I.R.O. in conjunction with our own Committee. This will be circulated privately to all A.S.F. societies, all registered bat - banders, and others interested in Australian bat research. It is anticipated that the first issue will be ready by the time of our Committee Meeting in January.

As David Purchase is to return to Macquarie Island again in the coming year, it is respectfully suggested that the present acting convenor should continue in this post for the time being.

E. Hamilton-Smith
Acting Convenor.

CAVE SAFETY COMMITTEE

The report of the Cave Safety Committee Convenor, Paul Symons, was unfortunately not to hand at the time of printing. It is expected to be presented at the Meeting.

GENERAL SPELEOLOGICAL NEWS

Speleological Accidents We note with regret the death of Louis Hippenmeier, a leading member of National Speleological Society, while exploring Dead Man's Drop Cave near Gainesville in Florida. Hippenmeier was acting as belay man at the Surface for a party and fell to the floor of the cave below, a distance of some 55 feet. As all the other members of the party were in the cave at the time the cause of the accident is not known. Hippenmeier was lifted to the surface and rushed to hospital but died shortly after admission.

Another accident in Indiana occurred when a piton failed to hold and a member of the party fell some 80 feet. Fortunately his fall was broken by ledges in several places, and the injured man suffered only broken legs and a deep gash in the head. It might be noted that he was wearing an improvised safety helmet which undoubtedly saved his life - but a helmet of approved design might also have avoided a very nasty gash in the head.

1961 Speleo Digest This very useful publication containing selected material from 'grotto' magazines throughout the U.S.A. is available now at \$3.75 from Speleo Digest, 1251 North Negley Ave., Pittsburgh 6, Penna., U.S.A. (The 1960 issue is also available at the same price.)

Australian Cave Photography Congratulations to John Lotz (President S.U.S.S.) and Gordon Bain (P.M.S.S.) for their entries in the International Salon of Speleological Photographic Art. John took a second place and two honourable mentions, while Gordon was accorded on honourable mention.

The World's Highest Cave On the South Arete of Rakhiot Peak near Nanga Parbat at a height of 22,000 feet - discovered by Meininger and Caldwell on July 2nd 1963.

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PAPERS OF SPELEOLOGICAL INTEREST AT A.N.Z.A.A.S.

The A.N.Z.A.A.S. Congress being held in Canberra during the period January 20-24th 1964 includes a few papers of interest to any speleologists present. Dr. Barry Moore will be reading a paper on 'The Evidence for Climatic Change from Cave Beetle Fauna' (Sect. D). One of the special lectures will be delivered by Mr. John Mulvaney (see also pp.17,20) on 'Australian Pre-History'. Many other papers, although of less direct speleological interest, will doubtless contain material of importance to cave science.

Elery Hamilton-Smith will also be presenting a paper at the associated meeting of the Australian Mammal Society on 'The Geographical Distribution of Australian Cave-Dwelling Chiroptera'.

E.H-S.

If not delivered, please return to A.S.F., P.O.Box 198, Broadway, N.S.W.

A.S.F. Librarian

AUSTRALIAN SPELEOLOGICAL FEDERATION NEWSLETTER

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