

Death to all Running Dogs!!

# BULLETIN OF THE SYDNEY UNIVERSITY SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

*Lumen  
in  
Tenebris*

# SUSS

It's coming!!

What's coming??

Due for publication on about December 15th  
SUSS's production of the ultimate in high  
quality, yet cheap spelco publications:

THE EXPLORATION and SPELEOGEOGRAPHY of

MAAMOTH CAVE, JENOLAN

Written by JOHN DUNKLEY with the assistance of  
TED ANDERSON; forward by R.E. HURDOCH, NSW  
Director of Tourism; 60+ pages including 13  
pages of photographs and over 20 maps amongst  
them an incredible isometric cave map.

Mammoth Cave, provisionally Australia's  
third longest at 8000ft + , is certainly  
one of the most fascinating because of the  
diversity of its geography and its hydro-  
logical complexity. The booklet is a prod-  
uct of the many years of exploring, research-  
ing and theorising by SUSS members interested  
in Mammoth Cave. A reading of it will be a  
must for any spelco who intends visiting  
Jenolan on the 1972/73 NIBICON field trips.



FOUNDED 1948

Box 35, The Union,  
University of Sydney,  
N.S.W., 2006.

Registered in Australia for transmission  
by post as a periodical—Category B.

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COMING ACTIVITIES

December 2 General Meeting -- 7.30pm in Room 328, S.E. corner of the Quadrangle, University of Sydney. Slides and general end of year get together.

4-18 COOLEMAN PLAIN - Ludwig Huenzenreider (428.2034) is going to Coolman for two weeks to both cave and relax. Go for either the fortnight or part thereof.

18 Ladder-Making Day As many people as possible are needed to aid in the construction of badly needed new ladder. Come for the whole day or just for a couple of hours. The work will take place at either Bruce Welch's at Newport or Murray Anderson's at Wahroonga. Full details from Murray on 48.2685 or at the GM.

January long-weekend ASF Committee Meeting in Canberra.

March 2 General Meeting - arrangements for Freshers Trip

4-5 WEE JASPER FRESHERS TRIP

December/January 1972/73 NIBICON

As can be seen the cupboard is rather bare. However undoubtedly there will be trips over the next three months, so anyone who wishes to go caving should contact either Ludwig Huenzenreider (428.2034) or John Holliday (541922) (if one is not available then try the other). Also it is very important that any trip leader organising a trip let both these members know. In effect they will act as co-ordinators until the next Bulletin appears, probably just before the Freshers Trip.

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SOCIAL and OTHER VERBAL CODSWALLOR

\*Alas our Safety Officer has fallen!! Murray Anderson and Lindy Vadas recently announced their engagement, not long after Lindy had arrived unannounced from Perth to make the catch. Congratulations to them both.

\*Also congratulations to Diane Perkins, still a SUSS member although active with SSS, who recently announced her engagement to Don Rowles, an N.Z.er.

\*ASF Newsletter - owing to a collating mix-up most SUSS members did not get their copies of the June issue. They should be able to get a copy from John Dunkley at the GM.

\*At the October Committee Meeting Jack Vaughn was accepted as a trip leader.

\*The equipment pool now includes two new fibreglass surveying tapes, one being 100' and the other 60' and on an unenclosed hand drill type rig.

TRIP REPORTSAddendum to "Mini-Nibicon"Jenolan TR - 21-22nd August (SUSS 11(5): 57)

Quite a bit was achieved at the 'ASF Eight an arf Semi Biennial Conference' held at Jenolan recently. Henry Shannon and Jim Seabrook got together to discuss Wiburd's Lake Cave. Henry had been pottering about in it for years and Jim has recently started mapping to CRG 6. They were in disagreement about one of Henry's CRG ~~2's~~ (one of Henry's CRG 2's is equivalent to anyone else's CRG 6!!) -- Jim said it was longer than Henry had shown. Soooo! they went up to Wiburd's to check it out -- weeeelll!! it seems Jim and Henry weren't talking about the same thing -- voila a new extension, the Western Passage (see SUSS 11(4): 45). On Sunday Henry led a group of 'tourists' up to Wiburd's to have a go at his 'dig'.... a lot of talking and touring was done but no digging. Finally it was decided to fill in 'half an hour' by looking at the new bit.

Whilst Henry was showing Bev, Kathy and Eccles some fine arogonite in the roof, John Taylor and myself couldn't resist charging down the main stream passage to see where it goes. We got to the end and explored the terminal squeezes and generally couldn't make them go, at which stage I looked up into the roof and noticed a mudslope which someone had unsuccessfully tried to climb (bad luck Jim!). After getting up about 8' I discovered why it was unclimbed -- the mud suddenly got thixotropic and down I came into John's arms. Then the others arrived and whilst I climbed the opposite side to obtain a better view Bev succeeded in getting up to my high point. As I could see over the top where the high beam from my lead-acid disappeared into blackness, interest quickened. I came down and got beneath Bev to give her a leg over the top and she scrambled up.

"Whats up there Bev???" chorused half a dozen excited voices. "Oh just a horizontal passage which just goes on!....."

Bev gave me a hand up and we arranged a short rope from waistlines so the others could get up and then we thundered off down the passage. The old ASF team of Henry, Bev, Eccles, John and myself was off in full pursuit of the fabled Woolly Rhinoceros. Alas it was not to be. The passage was 120' long, 4' wide and about 30' high, and at the far end it dropped 5' into another joint controlled passage about 130' long and of similar dimension. This ended in an impassable rockfall. Just before the rockfall a side passage leads back and parallel to a branch point. One passage leads to a window looking down 25' to the corner below, one leads slightly down 8' to a mud fill, and another up a serpentine for 10' to a mud fill. (A map was included with this report but unfortunately I did not have time to print it -- also the passage has since been mapped more accurately -- SUSS 11(5): 59. ed.) The major characteristics of this section are that, like all the Western Passage, the walls and floors are covered with 2-4" of semi-glutinous mud, and that it is joint controlled. The roof has several tight holes leading up possibly as high as 60'. A short passage, parallel, at the top of the initial mudslope was climbed into over a nasty 15-20' drop but this leads only 6-8' along down round a right-angled bend and down a slope to a mud sump.

A quick CRG 2 survey was produced on the back of a chocolate wrapper with a felt pen. Total length of the extension to an extension is approx. 300'. There are almost certainly no further possibilities without extensive digging.



After this discovery we retreated to camp feeling pleased that a team of five from five different ASF clubs had once again demonstrated that co-operation brings bountiful rewards (remember Tasmania!!!).

Andrew Pavcy (UNSWSS)

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### Yarrangobilly - October 2-4th

#### "Caving Round the Fireside"

Present: Jim Seabrook(TL), John Holliday(M), Brian Spilsbury, Georgina Shanks, Steve Firkin (P's), Roger Lyle, Dave Kelly (V's), Roger Curtis(CSS), John Taylor(VSA), Tony Culberg(UNSWSS).

Fighting our way out of peak hour Sydney as a hot nor-wester encouraged our tempers it was hard to imagine that Yagby would be cold, wet and snowy. Anyway it was getting that way on Saturday morning when we arrived after spending the night at Roger's in Canberra.

Feeling desirous of a dry camp we began investigating old houses in Yagby Village with rather humorous results. Four cars chundered round a hillside on a slimy track -- three got bogged, or should I say two, for Steve, reversing carelessly really chundered, straight back into a three-foot deep stormwater ditch. After much mirthful sloshing about we got all three out, Steve's little Honda sports being towed out of the ditch undamaged by a friendly Toyota LC driver.

That afternoon whilst Jim led a party thru East Deep Creek, Roger C. and I visited the mournful SSS campsite. After hearing that we were sensibly encamped in the warm, dry old Yagby post-office house, John and Tony decided to preserve their sexual abilities by moving out of the cold, mud stricken SSS "camp" and into the house. We thus had a couple more able bodied souls to aid our consumption in the Kiandra pub that night. Leaving the pub at lam was rather unpleasant -- the beer in our stomachs almost froze as we motored off into the blizzard.

Sunday saw us in usual unenthusiastic states, but eventually we moved off to Y58 (Janus Cave). This is a real beauty. A few years ago NUCC forged a way over a flowstone barrier and on into a very large and incredibly pretty chamber. Probably the prettiest in NSW. A 90' pitch leads down from the chamber into North Deep Creek but lack of gear stopped our progress. That evening Roger L. and myself provoked some amazement as, still in muddy trog gear, we thundered into the guests lounge at the pub to collect a few supplies.

After the evening meal we relaxed around the hearth in the house as it snowed outside, thus providing ammunition for a muck about next morning. Except for Jim though who, at the time of the snowfight, was recovering from his chunderous efforts and an attempt to sleep on the fire. Eventually we left Monday lunchtime visiting Talbingo Dam on the way.

John Holliday

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SIGN THE LAKE PRODER PETITION AT THE GENERAL MEETING

Jenolan - October 30-31st."Jenolan in the Sun or Daylight Saving Strikes"

Present: Rick Tunney (TL), Jim Seabrook, Jack Vaughn, Jeff Turner (M's), Gary Paul, Ian Frazer, Terry Williams (P's), Roger Lyle (V).

This was for a change a sunny weekend, so, much time was spent lying around doing nothing, but still a reasonable amount of work was done.

On Saturday morning Henry's Hole was visited and a grade 3 survey commenced. This was halted by the discovery of a 30' drop which Jim was unwilling to trog. Repulsed by this cave the party returned to camp for a leisurely lunch. Owing to the unavailability of existing maps Henning's Hole J76 was visited on Sat. afternoon and a grade 3 map made. The inner reaches of this cave contain some good formation but the most interesting sight was the signature of Lucas, an early MP for the area.

On Sat. night the party split into two. Jeff, Jack and Terry took Noel, a guide, to Wiburd's Lake Cave to look at the aragonite crystals in Neddy's Nock, while the rest of the party stayed in camp for the 'Introduction to Daylight Saving Celebrations'. These celebrations were unique in SUSS history in that the grog supply outlasted the drinkers.

Sunday dawned with sunlight everywhere. It was obvious that daylight saving was a failure, daylight was being wasted everywhere. After an attempted coup d'etat when Jim attacked Rick with a tree, the party disguised themselves as tourists (except for Jim who is rather obvious) and visited River Cave. Wiburd's Lake was visited on Sun. afternoon. A party led by Jim surveyed wall detail and a small side passage containing an interesting squeeze off the Western Passage, while Jeff entered the upstream area, finding no water in usually wet areas. A hole of undetermined depth was found in the Neddy's Nock area.

While these parties were trogging Rick and Terry went for a wander about the countryside. The river bed was followed upstream from Wiburd's to the influx. The limestone ends 200yds up from Wiburd's and gives way to phyllite. There is no further outcrop on the right bank until the influx. There is a small outcrop on the left bank halfway between Wiburd's and the influx on a major right hand bend of the river, and there were signs that this area acts as an influx in wet weather. The influx is about 2/3 mile from Wiburd's at a left hand bend of the river. Here a limestone outcrop on the right (west) side of the valley comes right down to the river bed. A hole 12' deep was found at the bottom of this outcrop but it was not entered. The river was flowing at 0.3 cusecs and sank in a pool 20' long.

On the way back to Wiburd's the river was paralleled 300' up of the right hand hillside. No limestone was found until the start of the main belt near Wiburd's. Just before the limestone was reached Terry noticed a small doline in the phyllite (?) about 20yds from the limestone. This drew our attention to a large cleft in the rock, 30yds long, 20' wide, 20' deep, floored by large broken rocks, and with at the lower end a 3' hole gushing air so forcibly that it could be felt 20' away. This was not entered. A further cleft was found farther round the hill towards Wiburd's and several small holes were noted.

There is a shallow grassy doline in the alluvial plain near Wiburd's. From this doline it could be seen that all the features noted were in a straight

line. It is postulated that the air offlux was air coming from the upstream area of Wiburd's Lake. If this is so then the hole may be a good lead to the supposed connection between Wiburd's and the influx.

Rick Tunney

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# Jenolan -- 20-21st November

## "A Surfeit of Caves"

Present: Rick Tunney (TL), Jim Seabrook, Jeff Turner, Colin Mathers (H's), Jim Linton, Bruce Walsh, Phillip Toomer, Wayne Pitts, David McLean (P's), David Toomer, David Christian (V's), Roger Lyle, Keith Maxwell (SUM).

The only surface map of Jenolan which is available is of 1962 vintage and contains many errors and omissions which were possibly made to deliberately mislead. The aim of this trip was to locate and survey caves whose locations are unavailable to SUSS.

On Sat. one party visited Henry's Hole to descend the 30' drop. This turned out to be only 20' and a ladder was not needed. The cave continued on from the bottom of the drop and this was surveyed. Another party ascended the hill opposite Mammoth and surveyed a small unnumbered cave. This has been named Camp Cave as it is believed that it is the cave used by SUSS members during wet weather many years ago. False Frenchmans, Casterat and Foz were entered and surveyed, Keith's boiler suit being demolished by a particularly voracious piece of pirana rock.

The enquiring reader will surely ask -- "what has caused this unusual spate of work?" The answer is that the gullible speleos, lulled into a false sense of security by the fine weather on the previous trip had not expected rain. So after they had been thrown out of the PSG Taj Mahal by Phillip because they made it look untidy, there was nowhere to go to keep dry except underground.

Dashing between rain storms one party made their way to Wiburd's Lake where a rough survey was made to the hole in the cleft noticed on the previous trip. It is possible that this hole is J58 although no tag was seen. The hole was followed down through a rock pile 200-250'. A Kraft Cheddar Cheese wrapper of obsolete design was found and an attempt will be made to date this. Wiburd's was entered for a general look around.

On Sunday a small unnumbered cave near Oxbow which went in for 10' before becoming impassable was visited. J26, 27, 43, 44, 53, 54, 83 and 87 were visited and where warranted, mapped:

J87 - near Oxbow Cave. Goes for 6' in a Z shaped squeeze.

J54 - not entered as it contained half eaten animals.

J43 - above McKeown's Ck, the entrance is a vertical hole 25' deep; there is a rock jammed in this hole with a 15' drop on its nthn side and a rubble chute leading to J53 on its sthn side. The ledge to J26, 27, 53 and 44 starts about 15' below the entrance.

J26, 27, 53 - the latter was the only negotiable entrance.

J44 - filled with very loose soil after 10'.

A total of 16 caves were visited and many were mapped.

Rick Tunney

Tuglow -- November 20-21st"Fishing, Digging, Bone Collecting, Postulating....."

Present: Ludwig Muenzenreider (TL), Joy M., Manfred Listing, Jack and Judith Vaughn (H's), Bryan Barnett (P), G. Elliot, J. ? (V's).

This weekend had four main aims:

1. to collect bones from a cave in the Horse Gully Sink area;
2. to dig for a possible extension in this cave;
3. to check on the direction and character of the major joint in Tuglow Main Cave, as well as to determine a route for climbing the waterfall;
4. to fish and rest up after exams;

On Sat. 1.30pm Tuglow Main was entered by myself, Jack and Bryan. The stream at the bottom was estimated to be flowing at 2cusecs. The bearing and inclination of the major joint which makes up the cave and minor passages were calculated. As well a route has been determined for a future climb up the waterfall.

On Sunday, 11.00am the cave in the Horse Gully sinks was entered. Here numerous bones were collected, some partially calcified. Most of the samples are thought to be of marsupials or rats with the larger ones including skulls being perhaps wombat or kangaroo. Based on observation it is evident that the cave has in the past been completely filled with alluvium and rock debris. Much of the loose fill is now being removed by what process is however unknown at the moment. It is postulated that the fill is being removed in some deeper sections of the cave which have not yet been discovered. This is perhaps even more probable because of the general morphology of the area, the cave being situated as the apex of a triangle for which the other two points are an influx and a series of collapsed dolines. There is therefore every reason to believe that there are a series of long systems in this area which may even be connected hydrologically with the Main Cave. Most probably the main evidence will come from continued digging in the cave. The results of the weekends digging are promising.

The fishing was good for our visitors who spent more time at it than the rest of us. As well the LR had to pull some cars out on Sat. morning because of rain. However the weather cleared on Sunday.

Ludwig Muenzenreider

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Myanbone - 20-21st November"Why Hasn't SUSS Been to Myanbone"

Present: John Holbidge, Chris Fieldhouse, Graeme McGown (SUSS), Roger Curtis, Gaz Bryant, John and Maureen Riley and others (CSS), John 'Cable Layer' Taylor (VSA)

God Knows!!! SUSS hasn't been near the place for some years, yet a recent weekend spent in the area (Myanbone, Big Hole, Marble Arch) was so relaxing that I'm inclined to call it idyllic (a word I usually reserve for Cliefden trips).



Three of us joined a CSS trip intent on overcoming the end of year exam blues. We arrived at Wyanbene via Captains Flat on Sat. morning after kipping the night in Canberra. Following a brief limber-up with red wine and cheese we entered Wyanbene Cave, a tres interesting hole. The delights of the Water Crawl will be left to the imagination, except to mention that a couple of bods, who really shouldn't remain nameless, piked both going and coming by taking the dry bypass. The Gunbarrel Aven and Caosars Hall were visited --- the Aven has been measured as approx. 320' high using helium balloons and would be one of the most spectacular cave phenomena that I have seen; Caosars Hall is a deceptively large chamber at the far end of which is the way to the end of the cave. We didn't get to the end as we were short on gear and shamelessly intent on bludging.

A lengthy meal in the warm 6 o'clock sunshine was followed by a sighting of wallabies at one end of the campsite, and then a protracted and very relaxing spell of imbibition.

On Sunday we decamped and headed for Big Hole and Marble Arch. The Shoalhaven crossing was blocked by some clot who'd bugged his steering on a large gibber, but we manhandled the car aside and pushed on. The Big Hole has to be seen to be believed --- 320' deep, 120' wide it is surely Australia's greatest 'long-drop', although I doubt that even 'Cable Loyer' Taylor would be game to christen it.

Marble Arch, at the bottom of a bloody steep, slippery hill, has a few small bone-rich caves, and a very pretty small arch and gorge. Two zoologists from the ANU were along and a considerable quantity of bones were collected.

Then it was off to the Araluen Pub, reached via a spectacular, narrow winding road thru Majors Creek, and surely a must on all Wyanbene trips. Then we headed for home but unfortunately near Marulan the front suspension on the car went crook. Steering was rather awkward, and as we crawled down the highway 'Comedy Kapers style', many a motorist must have thought we were well and truly pissed. And after such a good weekend it's a wonder that we weren't.

John Holliday

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### CONSERVATION

#### Bungonia and Colong

The NSW govt. recently gave APCM Ltd. the opportunity to give up its Colong mining lease and instead take up leases on the edge of the gorge near Bungonia ('The Australian' 3/11/71). Implicit in the offer is the right to dump overburden into the gorge. The logical comment is that this is just another example of the govt's obvious mania to allow the destruction of as many scenic areas as possible. They've changed targets but the crime is no less.

#### Lake Pedder

Perhaps the NSW govt should take a few lessons from the Tas. govt. Bothunc's mob have a near perfect way of shutting up conservationists --- somehow they managed to clam up the press as well as chucking around law suits left and right. Democracy?



CLIEFDEN

October 16-17

John Dunkley

Present : John Dunkley (L), Jeanette Dunkley, Ron Murray, Beverly Riley, Denis Ward.

Ron Murray set a new record for a weekend's gaving by driving down from Morse late in the week, then pacing up to Cliefden and back, and returning to Morse on Monday. Only 1200 miles or so. Then it was his misfortune to hit a submerged rock in the grass around the edge of the paddock near the Island, resulting in a flat tyre. Other than that it was the usual Cliefden story - perfect weather, fine and dry, a typical idyll climaxed by a really good nosh-up on Saturday night. Oh yes, and we did quite a bit of surveying too, about 800 ft in all, using the forestry compass. Denis showed me a hole, opened up by OSS, on top of the hill opposite the campsite, about 200 ft south of the entrance to Taplow Cave. It is about 30 ft deep and is more or less above a known section of the cave. A connection is possible, indeed probable, though there is a good deal of earth to be removed. About 50 vertical feet separate the two parts. The last gate was closed at 4 pm on the dot on Sunday and, spurred on by the thought of Elizabeth R waiting at 8 in Sydney, we made what must be close to a record home run of 3 hours 50 mins

#### "ONCE MORE A CAVE MAN"

"PARIS: A French cave explorer, Michel Siffre, is leaving for the United States to spend 200 days in an underground cave in Kentucky as part of a research experiment.

"The experiment will enable scientists to determine the effects of prolonged solitude and silence on man's rhythms for living."

(The Australian, 19-10-1971)

(after Siffre's last well publicised cave sitting effort, perhaps it would be appropriate for him this time to institute a study of the effects of his stay in the cave on the biological rhythms of the cave. Marvellous case study of pollution, I should think.)

#### MAMMOTH CAVE - another plug

As announced elsewhere in this issue of the Newsletter, SUSS are glad to bring to the attention of readers its new book on the exploitation and speleogeography of Mammoth Cave, Japolan. Several innovations have been made in this book, particularly cartographic techniques introduced into Australian speleology for the first time, and notably the first (as far as we know) isometric cave map made in this country. An unbelievable number of man hours was put into making this technically the finest book ever produced on caves in Australia. For the art work and cartography particular thanks go to Ted Anderson, who has used it as a vehicle to demonstrate how to really draw cave maps. Expected publication date is December 15. We hope it will be an adequate answer to these (not SUSS members) who've been asking

"AND WHAT THE HELL DOES SUSS EVER DO, ANYWAY?"

BOOK REVIEWThe Caves of Karst by Lee Hoffman (London; Dobson; 1969)

"Deep in the water filled caves of Karst, even if you had implanted gills, the thin line between life and death was stretched taut. Any ordinary mistake could spell finis - an accidental bump, cold numbness, or simply losing your way in the labyrinthine tunnels"

Karst turns out to be a planet of indefinite location, its crust largely limestone and dolomite containing a vast labyrinth of caves. Intrusions of igneous material had given of their elements to deposit minerals in cavities, vugs and seams of the cave walls of which the most useful and rarest was thelemitite, whatever that is. So the Earthlings came to Karst to exploit it and before long such terrestrial problems as murder most foul are happening. And the mutant creatures of Kitsch are hard at it too:

"Cooking a critical eye at a plastic stalactite, he suggested,

'It's to make you feel at home'."

Fiction novels about caves are nearly as rare as they are devoid of literary value and this piece of s.f. is no exception. Still most of us should be at home:

"He grumbled, 'Man spends his whole damn life in the g'damn caves and he comes out for a drink an' where's he find himself but in a g'damn cave!'"

John Dunkley

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NELUNGALOO (BEN HALL'S) CAVES

(Many members have heard of the legendary SUSS trip to Nelungaloo when, with full press coverage, a doline, which supposedly led to a large cave, was investigated. All that was found were old oil drums and dead sheep. Well apparently there is more to the place, as Rick Tunney relates. ed.)

The Nelungaloo Caves are situated 5 miles SSW of Nelungaloo Rail on Billabong Ck (MR 603897 Forbes 1:250000) on Nelungaloo property near the deserted "Pioneer Homesteads". The caves are known locally as Ben Hall's caves as they contain his treasure (in common with Abercrombie, Wellington, Mulla-mullang? etc. etc.). The local farmer was forced to blast the entrances as he lost whole flocks of sheep in their abysmal depths:

Armed with this valuable information a private party on 26 Jan. 1970 drove down from Peak Hill, went past the place twice not noticing it, holed the petrol tank and paid exorbitant prices for petrol etc., before finally arriving. There are a few surface depressions and two collapse dolines with associated caves:

Doline 1 - 40' in diameter and 15' deep with a 10' cliff at one side. Three entrances lead into a curved room 40' long. The floor slopes steeply and is composed of debris from the collapse. The roof follows the bedding plane - SW at 30°. The lowest point is 30' below the entrance where there is a pool of muddy water 15'x4' and 5' deep in places. There is no continuation.

Doline 2 - 200yds from D1 and 30' dia., 15' deep. One horizontal passage of 20'.

The area is of low relief and it is believed that excessive gelignite was used by the farmer as there is no evidence of anything speleologically significant.