

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SYDNEY UNIVERSITY SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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Edited by Ron Murray

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Volume 9, Number 2

June, 1969

FORTHCOMING ACTIVITIES

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|--------------------|-------|--|---------------------------|
| JUNE | 28-29 | JENOLAN | Ted Anderson 39-6608 |
| JULY | 3 | GENERAL MEETING Top Floor, Geography Building | 7.30 p.m. |
| | 18 | <u>ANNUAL DINNER</u> | See page 12 |
| | 19-20 | ABERCROMBIE | Denis Ward 644-2497 |
| AUGUST | 7 | GENERAL MEETING Top Floor, Geography Building | 7.30 p.m. |
| | 16-17 | CLIEFDEN (Surveying) | Denis Ward 644-2497 |
| JANUARY, 1970 | | NULLARBOR PLAINS | Rick Crowle 44-7415 |
| JUST ABOUT ANYTIME | | SKI-ING | See just about anybody |

OUR MAN IN AFRICA

Ex-President John Dunkley, on tour in Africa, appeared briefly on TV in Salisbury, Rhodesia, on May 21. In a news-magazine program called "Tenth Hour" (produced along the lines of "This Day Tonight"), he spoke for about 8 minutes on caves and caving generally, particularly on the Nullarbor. The program was carried live as RTV have not yet invented videotape. John reports that one of the few sanctions on Rhodesia that is effective is evident by the lack of new TV programs from U.K. and U.S.A. As a result they are desperately short of new and interesting material. (They must be to descend to this.....).

He also did some caving in Southern Africa. We quote....

"I was unable to contact the South African Speleological Association either before or after arrival, so chased up a few reports myself. Caves are not very common in South Africa; many are in dolomite or sandstone and rather small.

"Best known of all are the Congo Caves in Cape Province. A tourist trip through these is interesting. Started off with a 'Son et lumière' program of dimming coloured lights and ethereal music which was grossly over-commercialized. Deeper into the cave the passages are of Mullamullang proportions with huge 40' stalagmites and 60' columns, but the whole is very vandalized. About half way in the path drops to 3' in height and all the old fogies drop out. Further in still there is an optional extra for children and like-minded cavers and fools consisting of a tight chimney inclined up at 60° and a few squeezes. This is a good idea that could well be tried at Jenolan or Yarrangobilly.

"I also paid a brief visit to the dolomitic Sterkfontein Caves near Johannesburg where the first specimens of Australopithecus were found. Much of the Rand gold reef is overlain by fractured Karroo dolomite which occasionally causes serious water bursts in the mines.

"In Cape Town I spent a day looking for sandstone caves. There are supposed to be 42 on Table Mountain and another 81 nearby. A sleazy train ride 17 miles down Cape Peninsula brought me to Kalk Bay. I tramped up and down a great mountain but directions were vague and I found only 3 or 4 caves in the hard, rather coarse and dense sandstone which is much stronger than the Narrabeen or Hawkesbury Sandstones near Sydney. The biggest cave entered was about 200' long and 50' deep, but there are others up to 1250' long and 250' deep. Biggest in the world according to the locals.

"In Rhodesia there is only one real cave so far as I could find. Sinoia Cave, a National Park, is a great sink in dolomite

450' deep to incredibly blue water more than 300' deep. There are numerous rock shelter "caves" in granite and sandstone all over the country which are of great archaeological and anthropological interest.

"I am going caving on June 7 with the Cave Exploration Group of East Africa in some lava tubes near Nairobi. Caving in East Africa has tremendous prospects. Rhinos have been met on every trip ever taken, and occasionally lion, leopard and elephant are encountered. If I survive the trip, I'll write more about East African Caves later."

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CHURCH CREEK CAVES ARE ALIVE AND LIVING IN ARGENTINA!

Warringham Shire Council last week joined the fight against limestone mining at Church Creek by refusing to use Associated Portland Cement in its public works. The council made this decision by a majority vote when tenders from a number of companies were found to be equal. -Daily Telegraph, 20/6/69

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'RIPTIDE'

Chris Fieldhouse

For those who do not watch this deeply moving piece of Australian culture, which stars an American and is produced by Americans, on Channel 7 every Wednesday night, you missed some not often seen action shots of Jenolan Caves.

The "Riptide" program (which I am afraid I don't watch either) was about a casual guidecat Jenolan and his wife who worked as a waitress at Caves House. It seems that running gun battles took place around Carlotta Arch and the Devils' Coachhouse. You see, you never know what these ~~xxxxxxx~~ Jenolan Guides will be doing next.

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

Denis Ward

Our American Allies have come up with the ultimate ascender -- "MAD" -- which is short for "motorized ascending device". MAD consists of a one-horsepower, two-stroke petrol engine with an internal centrifugal clutch and gearbox (with synchromesh on all gears no doubt?) in conjunction with a homebuilt transmission which drives a specially designed grooved pulley. The controls are a twist grip throttle and an instant stop bottom. When the throttle is turned on, the clutch engages and the groove pulley rolls (climbs) up the rope, carrying the device and caver with it.

To date, MAD has climbed over a mile of rope, including two trips out of Sotano de las Golondrinas (over 1000') with no failures. The general specifications of MAD are:

Fuel consumption: 2 miles/gallon (150 lb. load,
37 ft./min.)

Weight: 23 lbs.

Load & rate of ascent: 400 lbs. max @ 37 ft./min.
or 200 lbs. max @ 74 ft./min.

(We regret no figures are to hand for standing $\frac{1}{4}$ -mile or
0-50 m.p.h. acceleration--Ed.)

A PASSING THOUGHT ON THE BIRTH OF A THREE-DAY WEEKEND

This could happen to you; it did to me and I hope it doesn't again. A three-day weekend must first be found and when do they usually turn up?? After months of careful placing of weekend trips every two weeks so as not to overtax the overworked sneleo too much and to allow the person in question to maintain his normal life-supporting activities such as work, tech or uni. Besides, one has to wash clothes and clean gearx sometime.

To get down to it, this weekend was found purely by chance, you realise, to be on the "free-stay-at-home-and-sloth-weekend". Now, three-day weekends don't grow on trees and one must not stay at home and sloth on one, must one? By-law number 695, sub-section D, paragraph (iii) states that "all three-day weekends must be used to the fullest possible extent or more by travelling the greatest distances possible from home or further, in the existing available time. One must then spend as much time, if not more time slothing at the far or further-than-far-away place." This of course means that the normal once-a-fortnight, normal two-day weekend trips on the normal once-a-week two-day weekends on each side of the abnormal three-day weekend have to be cancelled to allow for maximum possible (if not more) participation on this trip. This in turn caused catastrophic repercussions as the other trips had already been advertised in the official only and therefore best SUSS newsletter. It was therefore necessary to spread the news of the cancellations of these trips, which had blown away, to the multitudes, and to inform them of the latest developments due to the advent of an abnormal three-day weekend.

Situations like this can lead to utter confusion which is what happened in this particular case. People who decide that they wish to participate in a trip would be well advised to contact the trip leader sooner than half an hour before he is due to leave, and preferably much earlier. People who dip out or try to attend a trip the night before or later make conditions very difficult for the trip leader.

XDreamt up and dictated by R.C. Crowle Esq. (seated on sleeping bag (Hotham) (Jeanette's) (rolled up) (soft, warm) at Jenolan.

XCorrected & punctuated by J. Gaye (seated on ground (Hard, cold)).

XTyped by R.J. Murray Esq. (seated on 5-gallon drum with typewriter on Dunkley's tailgate (convenient but hard)).

XAnd a cast of THOUSANDS (Jim).

XAt great cost to the management.

AMEN.

A FABLETHE INSPECTOR AND THE BOLTS

There dwelt in the city of Sydney an Inspector of C.C. Die Castings and his Chief spake unto him saying, "Lo! there is, in the wilderness of Botany a maker of Bolts, and he has made two score and five Special Bolts. These be Sooper Dooper Bolts and great is the tensile strength thereof, that they may fix the top of a cylinder casing ever unto the bottom. Get thee hence and inspect them. And take micrometers and things and thou shalt gauge them to within the certain part of a gnat. For I say unto thee, that if thou shalt release them and they are found wanting then I will tear a strip off thee. Yes, if the bolts are not properly inspected, then I will cause great misfortune to befall thee.

And the Inspector, who was a sound bloke spake thus: "O.K. O Chief. That which is asked for by Drawing and Specification shall be done".

Then he departed and he journeyed in to the Wilderness unto the maker of the bolts who spake unto him saying, "Here they are, Charlie. Do you want a sixinsrool to measure 'em with".

But the Inspector chided him saying, "Before I measure them, command your servants and handmaidens that they may deliver unto me all the paper work thereunto".

Then there was carried out to this great man all that he commanded. One hundred and fifty nine scrolls, which were the Release Notes and the Test Certificates for the raw materials and the M.S.S. Certificates for the fiery furnace in which they did heat treat the bolts and the calibration charts for the hardness machine in which they did test the bolts and a host of Certificates of Accuracy for the tensile and Izod machines in which they did smite the Test Pieces. And there was also brought unto him a Dog Licence, a copy of the Factories Act and a 5/6 Lottery Ticket, which were included in error.

And they delivered unto him also many M.S.L. Certificates relating unto the Wickham Gauges used upon the Bolts.

There were also Certificates of Chemical Analysis and Radiological reports and the Inspection Records and many other reports of strange and wonderful things of which none knew the meaning. And they brought a copy of the order and a set of drawings and a Pyrometer Record Chart which was fifty cubits long and a multitude of other things too numerous to recite.

For twelve days the Inspector looked upon all these things, and on the twelfth day he said they were good.

Then did he measure the bolts, and all the dimensions thereof were according to Hoyle. And he put upon these strange potions and tested them upon a machine of Magnaflux. And he performed Rockwells upon them all and some he rubbed with a precious jewel. Then he cast his eye upon them through a microscope, a horoscope, a telescope, a periscope, a stroboscope and other strange devices.

And did he project the threads upon a screen and gazed upon their form and it was fair. And he gauged them by the Laws of Go and Nogo and the Law of Best Cylinders. And from one bolt which seemed doubtful, did he cause a test piece to be made, and great was the Tensile strength and the Izod and the Elongation were fair to behold. Then he caused X-Rays to shine upon them lest there be concealed weevils inside them.

These things and many others, which are in the Sacred Book and known only to Inspectors and their disciples, the Examiners did he perform with great cunning.

And when all these things had come to pass, it was the evening of the nineteenth day and he made out a release note and inscribed therein all the necessary details and he signed it and put his stamp upon it and the bolts also.

Then he spake unto the Bolt Maker, saying: "I do declare this batch of Bolts to be pretty bloody good. Despatch them to C.C. Die Castings and if they bounce, then I shall eat these one by one without salt".

But lo, it came to pass that they were rejected.

They had been fashioned to an obsolete issue of the drawing and were half an inch too short.

And the grief of the Inspector was terrible to behold.

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DINNER

SUSS will be holding its annual Dinner on Friday, July 18, at 6.30 p.m. for sherry. This year we are breaking with tradition and are holding it at Manning House, Sydney University, instead of The Union. The cost will be \$3.50 single, \$6.00 double. Person or persons wishing to go should contact Geoff Butlin at Fisher Library (660-0522).