



NEWSLETTER

Cave Exploration Group

South Australia

C/O SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM NORTH TERRACE ADELAIDE

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 1969

EDITORIAL

If you were looking forward to another hundred page stirring editorial on the shortcomings and urgent needs of the Group you will be disappointed. The Editor is getting too old to do that sort of thing, and besides that he has good reason to feel happy.....

happy because he has actually received a CONTRIBUTION for the Newsletter, even without twisting any arms,

happy because he knows that the Group's recent social ventures were enjoyably successful,

happy because he was only one of the few people to find nice new extensions in the most unlikely places in caves in almost all of our major caving areas (except the Nullarbor, where we certainly would have, if we'd been there),

happy to feel that the Group is doing well and once again feels truly as though it is alive and not propped up on sticks by the faithful few,

happy to hear that the Constitution is actually being reprinted, and that progress is being made on our Conservation etc. paper which will be issued one day to all members, (perhaps one day our new members, who sign a thing which says that they have read the Constitution, will be able to sign it truthfully like they did in-the-good-ole-days),

and indescribably happy happy happy

happy to know that he can run this Newsletter off on a nice electric duplicator instead of CEGSA's worn out ink spewing paper chewing stencil smashing hand cranky abomination.

..... happy G.G.

by the way Has anyone see Harvey lately?

Trip Reports

"The Flinders Ranges - Sept. 6th/7th, 1969"

Pride of place is given to our unsolicited trip report kindly written by Merrilyn Bateman, who has shown us with this sample that she ought to do it more.

"People arrived any time from Friday evening to Saturday morning. Leader Elery Hamilton-Smith arrived early Saturday morning, rather more dead than alive after driving almost all night from Melbourne.

Set out mid-morning Saturday to discover the elusive Good Friday Cave. After following the creek bed for some distance a shout from the hills stopped us in our tracks — Wayne Goedecke, exultant upon a hillside in the distance, had discovered an entrance. The reason for walking straight to it? After searching diligently in the early hours of Saturday morning for the camping site it was finally deemed wiser to ask at the station homestead. The location of the cave was also explained, and after that it was a simple matter for someone who had walked past it before.

Belay rope and 75' of ladder was used to facilitate entry to what turned out to be a 50' sloping chimney to some very dry dusty chambers. After playing musical stalactites we returned to the surface, while a nervous swallow fluttered above.

Discussion being a great pastime, the merits of going to Mt. Sims Cave before or after eating were pursued. Surprisingly enough the cave won and a party set off at 5.50 p.m., surfacing about 9.00 p.m. The energetic explored and the conscientious surveyed — Gary Havens slept! Humidity in the cave is exceptionally high and some apt comparisons were made to sauna baths. Water table was reached and there is evidence of a much higher water table, as the rock pile is in places covered with calcite flakes; at present there are just a few puddles among the rocks. Another chamber with a 'dried mud look' floor was discovered further on. In all, it is a very promising cave.

Rabbits were active at night and during the morning and a few managed to wander into the traps.

We returned to Mt. Sims Cave on Sunday morning for more exploration and survey work.

By 4:00 p.m. the camp site was deserted except for Elery who (lucky man) was staying on in the Flinders."

Merrilyn Bateman.

Adding to Merrilyn's notes above are some comments from Alan Hill who was also impressed by the trip. He tells us that as well as Merrilyn there were thirteen other bods on the official trip (fancy an official trip getting off the ground at all), namely Elery (Leader), Alan, Wayne, Barbara, Gary, Jean, Theo, Ron, Bart, Malcolm, Robert, Cynthia and Anne; and goes on to say....

The Mount Sims Cave would be the most interesting we have in-the Flinders at this moment. It was originally known as a guano mine in 1933 and consisted of a single chamber 100' x 35'. Wayne climbed into a roof hole some months ago and this showed a lot of promise, Peter Hawkes on yet another trip took a party through this hole to the water table. On this present trip Wayne and company extended their exploration past the water-table for a considerable distance and serious mapping of the system is now well in hand. Another trip is due there shortly to complete the mapping work.

The Good Friday Cave has now been found, for all time we hope, and the 1933 Mines Department map was extended at CRG Grade 2 standard with little hope of future extensions.

Despite the rain, wind and cold, the trip was also a social success. As a personal opinion this is attributed to the breakdown at last of Hill's "Choofer Problem". (Ed's note: a "choofer" is a small noisy petrol stove which must be placed in a sheltered position and huddled over and then only cooks enough for one. Many bush-walkers and tourists have them, but true-blue cavers scorn them). On this trip there were weak attempts by some individuals to light their own little stoves in their own little corners but the attraction of a large pine camp-fire which ultimately raged for three days (under control of course) was too much and within the first half day the old communal camp-fire system had been adopted again.

With the location of the Good Friday Cave now fixed, our records are almost up to date on caves visited by CEGSA in this area, but where are the two nearby Wilcowie Caves visited by the Mines Department in 1933?

(A.L.Hill)

Trip Report - Sellicks Hill. (various dates)

Since the last newsletter went to press the Group has received permission to work on ('in' might be more appropriate) holes which appeared at the side of the road when the Sellicks Hill Cambrian limestone beds were chopped into during the making of the new Sellicks Hill road by the Highways Dept., and tremendous progress has been made. Theo Visser, poor chap, was almost convinced that we had gone down ninety five feet when the call for more rope came from below, and he lowered the bucket down for yet another load of dirt. However, it turned out that Gary H. and Malcolm Mac. between them, who were passing the messages up to the surface, had about seventy feet coiled around their ankles, and yet it isn't a bad cave, and the area is pretty promising. There is a good breeze blowing at the bottom of this particular hole, and a couple of rocks blocking the way. Whether the breeze comes through cracks from the surface or comes from below is not quite clear, and only more digging and careful surveying will tell. We may one day need that rope yet, Theo. Another nice hole looks more spectacular, and, being visible from the road-side had some nice shawls in it for a few weeks after it was opened up by the rock removal. They have now been smashed.

There are some whopper sized, rocks-in the bottom of this hole, which goes down about 25' at present, but it looks as though it might repay some hard work. We have permission to install a gate on it but how that the formation is gone this will only be necessary if we do decide to dig it seriously. There are a couple of good sink-shafts (blocked unfortunately) higher up the hillside, and a fair bit of earth-filled cavity exposed along the edge of the road. The hillside not far away reminds many people of the surface around Buchan Caves in Victoria, and we wouldn't be too proud to find just one cave along those lines. Carrickalinga Cave occurs further down the coast in the same limestone.

The area is so close to Adelaide that Gary Havens and Theo Visser even rode to it on bicycles to strengthen their legs for the Town Cave at Curramulka. They were so exhausted when they got there they didn't have much energy left for digging, but at least it proved a point (confirmed our suspicions).

Recommendation: keep digging and don't underestimate it. One good shovel in the right place and the bottom could fall out of that hole.

G.G.

CURRAMULKA - 16th/17th August

Various bods and some Scouts came on this trip which was originally programmed for surface exploration. As the trip was on the weekend preceding the ANZAAS Congress we were fortunate to be able to show the area to Fred Aslin who normally sticks to Mount Gambler and the South-east, where he lives, and Albert Goede, past-President of Tasmanian Caving Club and their chief forthcoming ASF Conference organizer. For these distinguished guests we decided that a little of the underground should be turned on as well, and eventually visits were made to Correll's Cave as well as a quick trip into the Town Cave.

There is a hole in a paddock belonging to Mrs. Goldsworthy of Curramulka, and shown to us by Mr. Joe Maddock, also of Curramulka, just east of the Port Vincent Road, not far out of town. We would never have seen it if he had not shown it to us, and in fact you still don't see it until right upon it, even though it is quite an impressive cave entrance. He was actually showing us a shaft up on the hill in the same paddock, which he was not sure about. We went down it on the last trip and found it to be 80' deep, and definitely dug in solid limestone. It ends in a rubble floor, so that its' original depth, and whether it ever went right down to water may not be known, but if people continue to throw rocks in to see how deep it is it should be gone by the year 2888 AD.

The entrance which all the interest is about is one he only showed us when asked if he knew of anything else around the place. It is reminiscent of the entrances to some of the major blow-holes and minor caves of the Nullarbor, with quite a depression doline, broad and shallow, all sides, leading into a shaft which goes down about fifteen feet and ends in a floor of rock slabs interspersed with very recent rubbish. On this trip one of those rare flashes of enthusiasm for such a place was encountered, and all bucked in especially our scouts, to load and hoist up bucket after bucket of old bones, rusty tins and so forth. Returning from a quick trip to the campsite at Correll's Cave to pick up some food an incredible sight confronted us. The bods who had stayed to dig had ropes in all directions across the top of the hole and Wayne's car puller-outer type block and tackle suspended from the centre of this and tied at the other end to a gigantic boulder which in turn was tied up like a Christmas present. In addition two ropes were also attached to the rock at one end and to the backs of cars at the other. About ten people were in supreme command of the exercise telling the car driver to take the strain hold it steady and ease it back a bit at the same time. Since the car(?) driver was Gary Havens (the man who tries to climb mountains in Land-Rovers) who has three speeds for driving, - stop, full speed astern and full speed ahead, many people damn near died of fright, but he actually managed to do all these things at once very well, and eventually the mighty boulder was hoisted clear of the hole and everyone was able to go back into the hole and grovel in more rubbish. Near the end of the day the floor changed more into original type broken rock of the large variety which needs some gentle persuader to turn it into portable pieces, but a cavity was gotten into under an overhang on one side of the shaft which increased the accessible depth of the shaft by about 10'.

It is a promising hole - but a big job still remains before it becomes the largest cave in Curramulka - at the most probably only another 60' of dirt and rock needs to be hauled out.

It was one of those trips, and having dug rubbish all day we were all set to get a good night's sleep when we realised that our guests had not seen anything of underground Curramulka, and so a quick run in the Bushwalkers area of Corrells was decided upon. Albert Goede is a pleasant bloke with a cheerful disposition whose only misfortune is that he has been brought up on Tasmanian caves and doesn't know what real caving is like, at least he didn't until we had him breathing out to get through the first crawl into the Bushies. After you have been to Corrells Cave a few times you forget what you thought of it the first time, and it brought back memories to hear Alberts' grunts and polite comments coming from close behind all the time.

Eventually, as I knew he would in Corrells Cave, Albert asked just where we were going. It is not obvious in such a maze, so I replied that we were going to the known end of the section where I had made a recent discovery and were then going to discover some more. Albert at this stage of the evening could not understand why we wanted to discover any more of such a cave, but could still smile so we strode onwards (actually mainly crawled onwards) and onwards. At this stage most of the party elected to return to the surface and indulge themselves in sleep, while Gary, Wayne, Albert and myself rallied our reserves of energy and pressed on into the new section. A few minutes later we were in there, and Albert and I crawled or swam along a glorious smooth sand-floored flattener that I had not had time to push to the end on the last trip. Gary and Wayne looked at a few of the other dozens of tunnels leading off elsewhere luckily (or for Albert's benefit - as is usual in Corrells) it only took about five minutes to dig into a new large crevasse-type tunnel, and seeing Albert was the guest I even let him take the lead for a while, quite a change from my usual glory-hogging self. That tunnel just went on and on, with

holes going off the floor, holes off the walls, and probably holes in the ceiling if we'd had time to look for them. Towards the end of our exploration the scenery was some of the wildest looking broken rock areas in the cave, and Albert himself was quite excited about the whole affair. His tune had changed from 'Why discover any more of this thing' to 'Very interesting, hmmm'. He was even heard the next day to say that he wouldn't mind going back in there, which just goes to show that Tasmanians are just as stupid as the rest of us. One of these days we'll go back in and explore all the ones we didn't have time for at 2.00 a.m.

Sunday morning we were woken by Peter Bolland at the ungodly hour of 8.00 a.m., as he broadcasted his revolting fitness and early-morning good cheer to the whole world from the campfire just outside our tent. It was decided that a trip to the Town Cave was called for once the delicateness had worn off, and it was duly visited. However, on inspecting the locks on the newly installed door at the top of the cave, one was found to have been bent and bashed badly by application of a rock. Someone had unsuccessfully tried to force entry of the door between Saturday afternoon when we looked at it first, and the Sunday morning. Not very nice at all. Some careful locksmithing with a sledge-hammer straightened the lock out again, and very careful hammering and twisting of the key with pliers managed to turn the barrel without breaking the key off in the lock. The other lock was fortunately unharmed, and before long we had the door open and removed the form-work that we had used for pouring the concrete, and a dangerous beam balanced across the shaft. A small party went for a quick spin down the cave. I did a free-climb into some holes on the east side of the entrance shaft, which might go if a lot of dirt is dug out, and we then pushed on into the bedroom extension. Mac here showed his flair for finding small holes which had been overlooked before and all but broke into a new extension off the end of this. A quick follow up trip with a sledge-hammer has still not removed the obstacle completely, but next trip should see entry into some roomy passage of unknown length, but with lakes in at least two sections.

Grant Gartrell

Naracoorte - various dates

It was sad to see the new Naracoorte Caves Reserve building go up in smoke so near to completion recently. A fire is believed to have started in the old generator shed which was still situated alongside, and spread to the eaves of the new building. It does not look now as though there is any chance that the building can be ready now to handle the crowds which the summer season brings. Another generator has been brought to the Reserve - but let us hope that the ETSA SWER system reaches the Reserve soon.

While we are on the subject of the Reserve, Frank Harrison's wife is in bed sick at present, and it would be appreciated if you could show consideration by being extra careful to be quiet at night, especially when arriving at the Hut late or in the early hours of the morning. It is incredible that some caver's cars should have thirteen or fourteen doors all of which need slamming, and straight-out exhausts which sound nice miles away (the more miles the better). These vehicles are not common amongst cavers we know, but they all sound that way at 2 a.m. so be as considerate as you can.

Smoke Cave: Peter Chappell led a trip to this cave recently and reports that he is sure that the original Smoke Cave dig will go soon. We've heard that before, but it is bound to go one day.

Saddle Cave: We have not been back to it since the last good breakthrough. That breeze comes from somewhere.

Fox Cave: Peter Rob is believed to have recently done a power more good to the constriction in the far end of the Fox Cave. It looks good on the other side.

Elsewhere: Once again it is necessary to withhold information, for numerous reasons. Keep watching this space. This bit of information is a real dilly and makes you wonder just what is holding Naracoorte up ???

What's the point of saying anything about Sand Cave? It's just one of those things which is proportional to the amount of time you are prepared to put into it.

Field Day - Belair National park 31st August

Amazingly the rain of the preceding days dried up in time to make a perfect day for the Field Day which was held at the usual spot - the lower waterfall on Workanda Creek in the western section of National Park. It was probably more of a social success than a great success from the point of giving new members a firm grounding in rope-work, although four or five bods abseiled for the first time.

Peter Hawkes was most secretive and set up a private rope twenty yards away from the general area, which, as time revealed, was so that he could try out his new jumar ascenders. The exercise revealed mainly that there is an art to using these things which Pete hasn't quite mastered just yet, although at least he was still alive by the end of the day.

We were rather disappointed not to have Peter Robby with us this year to give us his famous 60' swallow dive rappel, but Wayne Goedecke almost made up for this with his valiant attempts to master the same art.

Pete violated the laws of protection of flora in the National Park by abseiling as usual upside down into the prickly bush at the bottom and bending it a bit, but don't worry too much, it will recover from the shock, and is bound to be there with a new set of prickles for next year so make sure that you come along.

CEGSA Occasional Dinner No. 1. 12th September.

Held at the Centralia Pub, North Terrace, Adelaide, this show was attended by about 44 people including a number we haven't seen for a while.

A short slide show given by Vic Linke and Noel Mollet reminded us of the reprobates who constituted the Group in its early days and Noel was presented with a medal to commemorate the presentation of the honour mentioned below. The evening was almost cut short positively prematurely by the lighting up of Tom Wigley's giant carbide lamp, which had been restored to working condition, all bar the bottom gasket which was perished. When flames three feet high suddenly spurted from the bottom after vigorous shaking, a hasty retreat to outside saved the day. No harm was done to the pub, the lamp or the holder, but it was quite spectacular, especially in the dark.

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP

At a recent General Meeting it was unanimously decided to confer Honorary Life Membership upon Noel Mollet and Bob Sexton as a mark of recognition for their great services to the Group over the years. Even if they cannot keep at the forefront of Group activities and Group politics we would like them to at least know roughly what their ground-work has led to. It's not such a bad Group after all. Noel was presented with a medal at the dinner. We'll pin one on Bob later on.

CONGRATULATIONS & ALL THAT JAZZ

Butterfield you've really done it this time. Tony B. has scored a double win in recent days, so you will understand the smile on his face. Tony has just changed Miss Beverley Sigmont into Mrs. Tony Butterfield. Congratulations Bev, & Tony. Poor ole Tony had to resign from the elite 413 Club as a result but to cap things off he's also got his Ph.D. so if you think your ionization potentials are a bit poorly just see Doctor Butterfield.

Speaking of 413 (Cross Roads, Edwardstown) the stronghold of bachelorhoodism to beat them all, it seems that the rot is fast setting in. Perhaps Peter Robby just got out in time. Rumour has it that both Barry and Bernie are for the high jump in the not too distant future. How about you Bill? Shaking in your socks yet?

TOM WIGLEY'S SPOT

Poor old Tom missed out on finding the deepest cave in the World recently when the limestone he visited in Greece which was shown on the topographic map to be over 4000' thick turned out to be only 3000' thick. Still, his party did at least find the deepest cave in Greece. Have you ever climbed down 1455 feet on caving ladders? Tom has.

Tom is presently keeping the side represented at the International Speleological Congress at Stuttgart, Germany, and he is well armed with slides of the Nullarbor. It is hard to say whether he will cause a rush of cavers from other parts of the World to Australia, or whether they will just make sure to stay away from now on. Time will tell.

TASMANIA 1970-71 Plans are definite now. Trips will be held to Exit Cave for one week, Mole Creek for two weeks and Mount Anne for about ten days (for fit bods only). We have definite bookings on the Australian Trader for 20 people plus 11 cars leaving Melbourne on 24th December, 1970 and returning on Princess of Tasmania about 18th January. Twelve people have already paid deposits, and we will only be holding the remaining places for CEG(SA) people for a very limited period, after which any remaining will be offered to members of other ASF societies. In addition we have a further 20 places on the wait list for Princess leaving Melbourne on 25th December, with a good chance of getting on. If you haven't booked already, there is not much chance of getting on at that time of the year, so make sure of your place now by paying a \$5-00 deposit to Grant Gartrell, or cheque made out to CEG(SA) No. 2 Account.

Cost: approx. \$30 return per person
 \$60 return per car, from Melbourne.

Start saving now. You won't regret it.

GOOD HEAVENS - SPEAK OF THE DEVIL

Harvey Cohen has just walked in from New Zealand and he's not even wet. He has the following to offer:-

(CHORUS: "It's the same the whole world over.....")

While recently in Auckland, Harvey rang Police Headquarters seeking the phone numbers for cave search & rescue contacts. (We know he was lost as usual but his story is that he just wanted to get in touch with some cavers) After two 'phone transfers he was told that Sgt. Jackson, who handles such matters, "would be on duty tomorrow after 9 a.m."
 (REPEAT CHORUS!)

APPLICATION FORM FOR CEGSA 1969 CAVEMAN'S DINNER -13th Dec, 1969

To: The Hon, Secretary,
 CEGSA c/- S.A. Museum,
 North Terrace, Adelaide

PLACE: The Chesser Cellar,
 Chesser Street,
 Adelaide, S.A.(Aust.)

TIME: 7.30 p.m.

PRICE: \$3-00 per head.
 Drinks extra.

Please reserve me seats
 for the Caveman's Dinner, for which
 I enclose \$_____ as deposit / full payment.

Name _____

Address

.....

Entries for the Photographic competition held in conjunction with the Caveman's Dinner must not have won a prize before, must be of South Australian caves or at least taken in S.A. and must be limited to ten slides per section per entrant. Photographic prints of at least 10"x8" dimensions will only be judged in a special section if the number of entries warrants it.

All entries must be clearly marked with the owner's identification if returnable, and packaged securely. Entries must be lodged by the November General Meeting.

- Sections:
1. Best caving photograph
 2. Best Cave Photo
 3. Best personality photograph.
 99. Miscellaneous, better known as "everything else."

CAVE EXPLORATION GROUP (SOUTH AUSTRALIA)
OFFICIAL PROGRAMME - OCTOBER 1969 to JANUARY 1970

October

- Wednesday 8th - Committee Meeting. 14 Arcoona Ave, Rostrevor.
- 11th - 13th - Long Weekend trip to Flinders Ranges. Mt, Sims survey to complete. Good Friday, Arcoota Creek Caves will be visited by people not involved with the survey. This is beautiful country and a good weekend for all is assured. - Leader: Wayne Goedecke.
- Saturday 18th - Starting after lunch at the Hill Hacienda, 84 Perseverance Road, Vista. This is basically a work party to collate the transcript of the last ASF Conference. Plenty of help is required for the project, but things will probably brighten up later. Bar-B-Q if weather permits.
- Wednesday 22nd - General Meeting. Museum Lecture Room, North Terrace, Adelaide. Doors open 7.30 p.m. An interesting selection of first aid & safety films will be shown.

November

- 1st - 2nd - Tantanoola Trip – Leader: Bart Dasborough.
- Wednesday 12th - Committee Meeting. 47 Folkestone Road, Brighton.
- Wednesday 26th - General Meeting. Museum Lecture Room, North Terrace, Adelaide. Doors open 7.30 p.m. Guest speaker: Neville Pledge - Curator of Fossils at the S.A. Museum.
- 29th -30th - Naracoorte Trip. Crawford Cave will be among those visited. Leader: Wayne Goedecke.

December

- Saturday 13th - Caveman's Dinner - This is the traditional end of the year fling with slide competition "Leather medal" presentation etc. Tales of the night's activities usually persist until the next year's dinner !!! To be held at THE CHESSER CELLAR - at 7.30 p.m.
- The food is very nice, and the main course is a cold meat smorgasbord - as much as you can eat. The price is \$3-00 per head, which includes a pre-dinner drink. Date and time are definite, so send your deposit / full money in as Soon as possible, and definitely by closing date: 26th Nov. (November General Meeting).
- Wednesday 10th - Committee Meeting - 225 Findon Road, Findon.
- Sunday 14th - Beach Barbecue. Probably held near Normanville. Bring the family along and have a good time. Leader: Barbara Dicker (Go - go exhibition???)

There is no General Meeting in December, but Father Christmas will give an exhibition of chimneying on the evening of 24th. He is the World's greatest exponent of this art, but if you want to see him you'll have to be good for a while.

(Programme - October January continued)December

Christmas Trips -

- Possible Trip to Victoria - more details later
- Nullarbor. If you want to go to the Nullarbor including Mulla-mullang, see Gary Havens.

January 1970

- Wednesday 21st - Committee Meeting - 6 Bradbrook Road, Athelstone.
- 24th-26th - Long weekend Trip to Northern Flinders Ranges. Warraweena Cave, Mount Hack Area. Leader: Bart Dasborough.
- Wednesday 28th - General Meeting. Museum Lecture Room, Rear of S.A. Museum, North Terrace, Adelaide. Speaker to be arranged.

CONTACT LIST

- | | | |
|----------------------------|---|-------------|
| Wayne Goedecke | - (W) 45 2391 | (H) 45 2411 |
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| Barbara Dicker | - (W) 59 6387 | |
| <u>Quartermaster</u> | - Bernie Dunn (W) 45 8433 (H) 535732 | |
| <u>Search & Rescue</u> | - Wayne Goedecke - phone as above. 225 Findon Road, Findon. | |

Trip Leaders are reminded that they are responsible for collection of trip fees from participants, and that an extra 30c per head is levied against non-members who have attended more than three Group trips, refundable upon that persons taking of at least Associate Membership. For scale of charges .see July - September Newsletter this year.

Note that all gear is to be returned to the Q.M. within one week of the end of the trip, and is not to be handed on directly to the next trip leader without the specific approval of the Quartermaster. There is a penalty charge for late return of gear.

If any gear belonging to the Group is currently in your custody, please return it to or notify the Quartermaster,-Bernie Dunn, without delay and give him a chance to make order out of the present chaos. Thank you.