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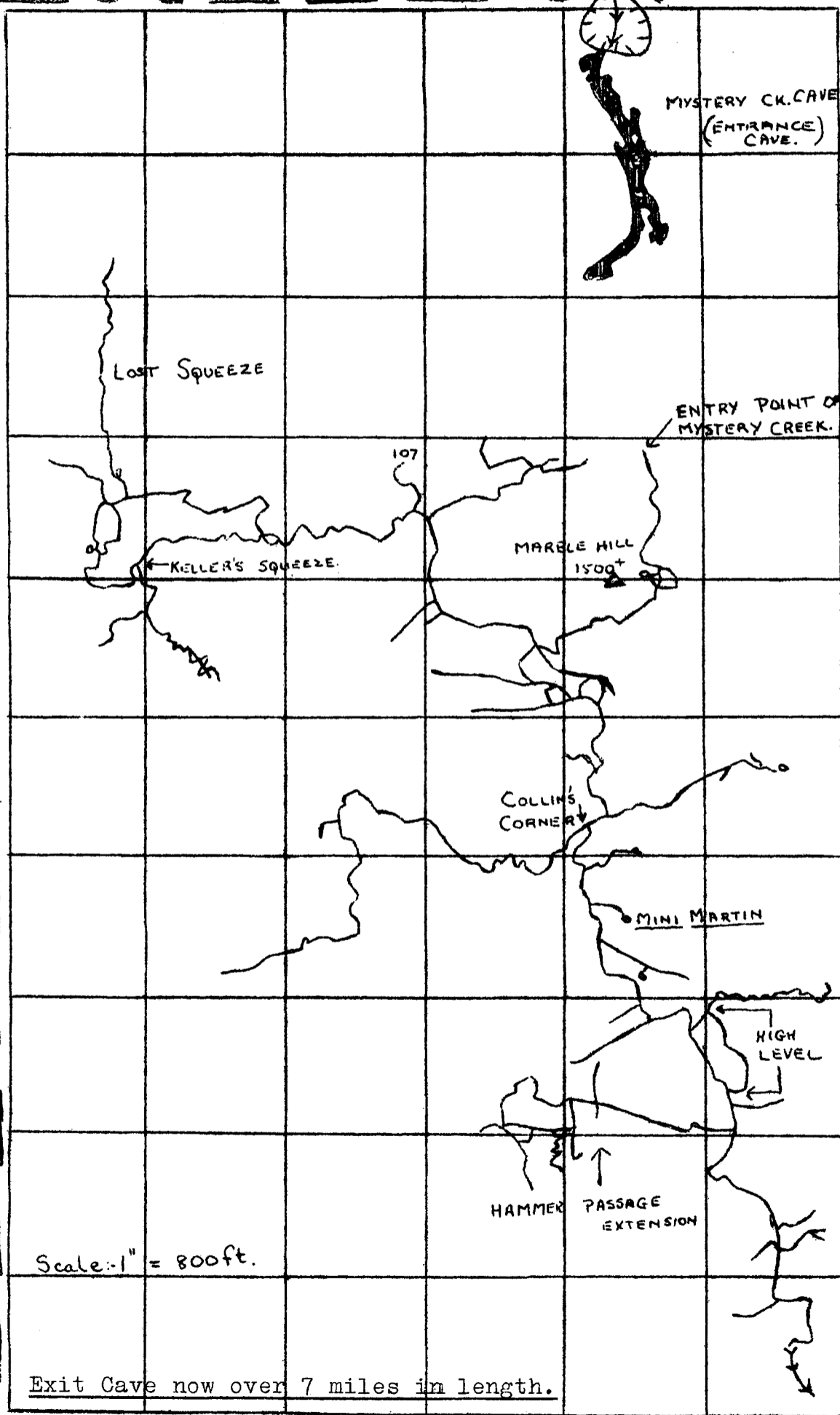
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LONGEST!

DEEPEST AND THE



EDITORIAL.

We can now claim officially that Exit Cave is the longest cave in Australia as the traverse has just passed the seven mile mark. Apart from having the greatest length of passages of any Australian cave it holds three other Australian records. It is also the deepest (720 ft.), has the longest single ladder pitch (360 ft.), and the longest gypsum needle (approx. 3 feet.). The exploration of Exit has gained new momentum with the discovery of the Dribble System - a new extension containing between $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{3}{4}$ mile of passages which have not yet been surveyed - see Tim's report. On the northern side of Marble Hill Brian and Jeanette have discovered two promising holes 600 ft. above Mystery Creek Cave (Entrance Cave). Exploration may provide links with Entrance and/or Exit Cave. Let's hope it's not a single drop!!!

CLUB NEWS.

+ Work on the climbing pole has been completed and we are looking for volunteers to test the structure.

+ The first copies of the A.S.F. handbook have arrived and are a credit to the editor, his wife and all those who supplied article and information. Copies at three dollars 50 can be ordered from Albert.

+ Minutes of the Orange Meeting and federation news have been received from the A.S.F. secretary.

+ The next bieniel conference of the A.S.F. will be held in South Australia from December 26 to 31, 1968. The venue is Graham's Castle - 50 miles south of Adelaide. Cost will be four dollar per head per day for full board. It will be followed by several interesting field trips. There is a choice of three weeks to the Nullarbor, OR two weeks to Kangaroo Island, OR one week to Maracoorite. See something different - get away from Tassie's cold, wet and drippy caves. Meet like-minded trogs from the North Island. Any takers??

+ At the last general meeting the club members decided unanimously not to support the Edie Smith Award as at present instituted by the A.S.F. It was felt that:-

- (1) The terms of the award were far from clear,
- (2) The award of a cup or medal to an individual caver was not in keeping with the spirit of caving which is essentially a team effort. General opinion: " We are in it not to earn a trophy but because we like it - whether the aim be sport or scientific research.
- (3) The club had already perpetuated the memory of Edie Smith in what it considered to be a more fitting way in naming the gypsum grotto near camp two in Exit Cave " Edie's Treasure " and by placing a memorial plaque in the passage leading to it.

TRIP REPORTS.

Exit Cave - 3-4 May, 1968.

Party: Alan Keller, Ray Allsop, Tim Walkden-Brown and Don Groom (C.C.T.)

We left on Friday night and after having a flat tyre walked into the cave entrance and made camp at the first camp site near the D'Entrecasteaux River at some ungodly hour. The track was reasonably normal for that time of the year - wet.

The alarm stirred us at 9.00 a.m. soon after (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours) we were headed for the Hammer Passage with survey gear. Immediately to work on the other side of the Hammer Squeeze we surveyed the first passage on the right. About 200 ft. and it look as though we were very close to Sib's ~~Ex~~ extension with a moderate draught passing through a small hole. Later when the survey was plotted the two passages were found to be about 100 ft. apart - hard luck!

Then minor surveying was carried out between the Crossroads and Smoking Chamber. This along with exploration was very time consuming and tiring as we became involved in negotiating many tight squeezes which appears to be characteristic of that part of the system. Lastly the Smoking Chamber was closed to complete the loop to the Crossroads. The 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ hour session was rather strenuous and we were glad to hit the sack. Meanwhile the creek had risen quite considerably.

On Sunday no surveying was done but the passage near the log bridge was investigated with the result that Alan Found a way to the surface and open air via a rather non-descript chimney, Don was able

to shove his hand through a small hole into the outside and I found an easier but none-the-less interesting way to the surface. Hail was found on the ground. We returned to our packs and out of the cave via the high level route again.

Approx. 1800 ft. was surveyed, and still more to go. Any potential Exit Cavers interested?

Tim Walkden-Brown.

Exit Cave - 17-19 May, 1968.

Party: Albert Goede, Brian Collin, Jeanette Collin, Kevin Kipling, Allan Keller, Tim W.-Brown.

Brian, Jeanette and Albert left Hobart at 6.30 p.m. on Friday night and reached underground camp at 11.25 p.m. An hour later the remainder of the party arrived and was most indignant to find the best sleeping sites already taken. After a vigorous exchange of friendly abuse we finally settled down to what was left of a night's sleep. The next morning our first job was to ensure a safe line of retreat. A new bridge was built across the creek to replace the old one. Someone got so carried away by the job of cutting the timber that they just about blocked the entrance. The resulting pieces must have been the longest objects ever man-handled through the Wind-tunnel. When the bridge was finished four of us sat on it to demonstrate its strength while Kevin recorded the event on film. Brian and Albert then went to the Entrance Chamber where the escape route was improved by inserting four bolts below the rope. Meanwhile Allan and Co. went off to "do" the Mud Passage.

After lunch Allan, Tim and Kevin went surveying in the high level while the better half of the party went to bed to gather strength for the coming night. At 9 p.m. Brian, Jeanette and Albert headed for the Lost Squeeze and met the other party coming back. Two and a half hours and innumerable talus heaps later we reached Broken Column Chamber which has some impressive formations. From there a precarious scramble down man-sized talus followed by a sandy crawl took us to our objective. The Lost Squeeze is a remarkable passage. It's easy walking and the gypsum formations - flowers, wool and needles up to 2' long - have to be seen to be believed. The pleasure was all to short as we made our weary way back to camp after a quick look at the north-west stream passage. A strong draught here holds some hope for a future extension. We arrived back at 3 a.m. Sunday morning was a time of lazy contemplation until Allan discovered that the river was 'rising fast'. We beat a hasty and rather wet retreat to the entrance. On the way out we were enticed to have a look at one of the newly discovered entrances found by Tim and Allan. After negotiating a number of chimneys, slippery dips and crawls we emerged from a rabbit warren into rainforest covered by a white layer of hail. The cave suddenly seemed very attractive and we popped back down except Brian and Jeanette who decided to take a "short" cut through the scrub to the main entrance. We met at the entrance and slogged our way home. In Reece's 'you-know-what' the water was up to our knees while hail rattled down on our helmets. A vicious thunderstorm gave us a noisy farewell as we staggered towards the cars. As usual we vouched never to return.

A. Goede.

Exit - Entrance Caves Area. - 2 June, 1968.

Party: Brian and Jeanette Collin.

A depression almost directly over Entrance Cave was followed up until the overlying sandstone and a surface creek was encountered. Near the limestone - sandstone junction several small holes were found with a positive but slight air movement out.

The first drop after entering the holes would be at least 30 ft. however, a small amount of excavation would be required at the entrances and a short bar might be useful.

Several hundred yards to the west of the holes and also at the limestone - sandstone junction a large and impressive sinkhole was found, about 100 yds. diameter and about 50 ft. deep. No holes were found at the bottom.

The holes should be investigated as they would lie approx. over the furthest extremity of Entrance Cave and could possibly enter a high level connection with Exit Cave or a "Mini Martin" type descent to Entrance Cave may ensure.

The area offers some hard, scungy caving, a piece of cake for Ex(c)iters.

B. Collin.

Exit Cave - 1, 2 June, 1968.

Party: Allan Keller, Ray Allsop and Tim Walkden-Brown.

The usual Fridaynight start and an unusually clear sky prevailed until the last few paces to the entrance. For the third time in a row we took the high level route. The second camp was reached well after midnight.

Our alarm went off at 10.30 a.m. and we were away at 12.45 p.m. Plans were to survey several passages between the Camp Pie Circuit and Acoustic Chamber but these were thwarted because the main stream was so high. A crossing might have been possible but returning might have posed a very serious problem if the level were to rise. Our alternative was to look at the main western passage and survey the link from here to Collins Corner (approx. 300 ft.) Whilst starting this survey we noticed a passage running opposite station 5 (western passage survey). This was thoroughly investigated and consequently linked up via a short circuit to station 9. Further exploring opened up another 500' of small but very pleasant dry crawl passages. This area is a honeycomb network of passages. We surveyed a circuit through to station 14 in the western passage. Surveying here was very interesting with some tape measurements as low as 8' and narrow steep chimneys thrown in with the bargain.

After a brief bite of lunch we shot up to collect some anaspides for the President. Following this further exploration was carried out to no avail although some minor fissures were mapped. We returned to camp after 10 $\frac{3}{4}$ hrs. having surveyed approx. 1100 ft.

Sunday morning the level had dropped. We began making the last run of our previous survey to Collins Corner when Allan disappeared to look at a small hole in the roof where a small amount of water was seeping. He was gone for about 10 mins. so I went looking for him and consequently noticed a small fissure beyond the dripping water. Allan was there all right so we all continued along the fissure until it opened out into a very large passage. We stumbled into another $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of passages and ~~in~~ on one side passage yielded two huge holes disappearing vertically. One (the Devil's Stovepipe) had a very large quantity of water pouring down. The other was almost as spectacular. Much exploring followed but time was running out so we reluctantly had to leave. We called this area the "Dribble System". On the way out we surveyed another 300', making 1,600' the weekends score, in the passage near the bridge down from camp 1. Out to the car at 8 p.m. A most enjoyable trip, with 7 miles now surveyed and possibly another 1 mile to be surveyed in the next few trips. Come on you slothful mob, how about coming to a real cave.

Tim Walkden-Brown.

Forward Programme.

- June 22 - 23 - Florentine Valley. Leader: D.Chuter.
- and/or surveying in Exit Cave. Leader: A.Keller.
- June 29 - 30 - Exploration of holes above Entrance Cave. Leader: Brian Collin.
- July 2 - General Meeting at 122 Augusta Road, Lenah Valley, 8 p.m. (Joan's Birthday.)
- July 6 - 7 - Herberts Pot, Mole Creek. Combined trip with S.C.S. Leader: Brian Collin.
- July 20 - 21 - Mole Creek. Leader: P.Brabon.
- August 3 - 4 - Exit Cave. Acting Leader: Tim Walkden-Brown.
- August 6 - General Meeting at 66 Wentworth Street, South Hobart at 8 p.m. Brian and Jeanette's housewarming.

P.S. Have received a lengthy trip report from Dick Chuter on the excavations at Mole Creek. However, owing to the fact that this Spiel is already rather bulky you will have to wait until next month's to read all about it.

P.P.S. Have just received the latest copy of Rucksack. Apart from the article on MINI MARTIN there is an extremely hair-raising story on the Ascent of The Totem Pole, a 200' high vertical column of Dolerite just off Cape Huay on the Tasman Peninsula. The next issue features an article on 'Walking in Tasmania'. You can still get your copies of this extremely interesting magazine by sending 3 dollars (10 copies) to Rucksack Magazine, 39 Balls Head Road, Waverton, N.S.W. 2060.

GUESS WHO ????

"red beard, curly moustache, long hair and all",..." and generally a bit crazy,"

Answer in the next Spiel.

CAVE SEARCH AND RESCUE ORGANISATION.

Drill For Search And Rescue.

If information indicates that a doctor is required the club controller in consultation with the police shall obtain such assistance. If the doctor is required to go underground preference should be given to someone with caving or climbing experience.

F. Brown, Home: 15 Harrington St., 2 5729(emergency messages only.)
Bus: Elizabeth Matric. College. 3 1424.

P. Brabon, Home: 122 Augusta Road, Lenah Valley.
Bus: Canes, Elizabeth St., 34 2733.

W. Peterson, Home: 12 Auvergne Ave., New Town. 84977.
Bus: Geology Dept. Uni. of Tas. 2 7741, ext. 408.

W. Hodge, Home: 18 Scott St., Glebe.
Bus: Video Sound Services, 141 Murray St., 34 1180.

R. Hughes, Home: 79 Poets Rd., West Hobart.
Bus: P.M.G. 329 Argyle St., Nth. Hobart. 20 8372 or 20 8534.

T.W.-Brown, Home: 76 View St., Sandy Bay.
Bus: P.M.G. Drafting Section, Stowell Ave., 20 8355.

S. Stephens, Home: 43 Seaview Ave., Tarooma. 5 8204.
Bus: Geology Dept., Uni. of Tas. 2 7741, ext. 408.

K. Kipling, Home: c/o A.T. Baker, Browns Rd., Kingston. 5 6229.
Bus: Rose Bay High School.

B. Howe, Home: 7 Hickman St., Lenah Valley. 8 1877.
Bus: P.M.G. Dept. 47 Liverpool St., 20 8375.

S. Vince, Home: 90 Montague St., New Town.
Bus: Commonwealth Bank, Hobart.

D. Reid, Home: 27 Alcides Ave., Lenah Valley. 8 3017.
Bus: c/o G.E. Walter, 7 Riverview Parade, Rosetta. 7 7461.

H. Meerding, Home: 7 Gurlay St., Blackmans Bay. 5 6230.
Bus: Blackmans Bay Garage. 5 6230.

D.Seymour, Home: 4 Clarke Ave., Battery Point. 2 5790.
Bus: 67 Macquarie St., 2 5354.
 D.Latham, Home: 35 Balaka Rd., Rosny Pt. 44 1672.
Bus: 61 Molle St., Hobart. 2 6407.

South.

D.Chuter, Home: Geeveston 27.
Bus: Forestry Commission. Geeveston 277.
 R.Skinner, Home:/Bus: Chalet, Hastings Caves. Hastings 3.

North.

R.Woolhouse, Home: Deviot.
Bus: Launceston High School, Paterson St., Launceston. 2 4647.

Mole Creek.

J.Cunningham, Forestry Commission, Mole Creek, Liena 7 U.

North-west.

I.D.Farley, Home: Savage River.

West.

R.Kent, Home: 33 Driffield St., Queenstown. Ph. Q'town 63.
 W.J.Surtees, Home: 2 Denison St., Queenstown.
Bus: Q'town 63.

A.S.F. Code of Ethics.

by. P.McGregor.
 Adopted Dec.1960.

The Federation expects that the following rules will guide the actions of members of A.S.F. societies.

1. They will, in reporting their work, avoid and discourage sensationalism, exaggeration and unwarranted statements.
2. They will treat guides and other officials of tourist caves courteously and respectfully.
3. i. They will carefully observe the established rules of good camping conduct.
 ii. They will be careful to bury all carbide and rubbish.
4. i. They will have specific or tacit approval from the owner or guardian before entering private property or caves reserves.
 ii. They will follow normal local practices regarding gates on properties or reserves.
 iii. They will not, except in cases of emergency, presume on the goodwill of owners in dry areas for supplies of water. Prior arrangements must be made.
 iv. They will take care to avoid interference with stock or crops.
 v. They will, where the cave entrance has been blocked by the owner to prevent injury to livestock, either reblock the entrance after use or construct a substantial and permanent fence around it.
5. i. They will not leave rubbish in caves. Spent carbide, flash bulbs, wrappings and other refuse must be brought out of the cave.
 ii. They will not disfigure caves by any unnecessary markings.
 iii. They will take care to avoid disfiguration or destruction of cave decoration (formation).
 iv. They will not under any circumstances leave faeces in caves. They will prepare themselves beforehand or, when underground, make provision for the removal of faeces.
6. They will when visiting an area frequently visited by another club, do all in their power to co-operate with that club.

(Taken from the A.S.F. Handbook, page 13.)