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G.P.O., Hobart, 7001.

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SEARCH AND RESCUE.

The rescue of Timothy Walter from a dolerite cave on Mt. Faulkner in December showed up a lot of weaknesses in the cave search and rescue organizations. It also showed the problems of communications and supplies in an inaccessible area only 10 miles from Hobart. Some of the things we learned were:

(1) that all members who may be called upon to act as search and rescue controllers should have an up to date address list handy. A new list is published in this Spiel. DO NOT throw it away but keep it in an obvious place.

(2) that during a weekend it is very difficult to get hold of the vast majority of cavers. The more can be alerted the better so the list should be as extensive as possible.

(3) that it would be valuable to have a list of localities and organizations where specialized equipment is available. This list will have to be extensive because no two rescues will require the same equipment. Hydraulic jacks and an air pump proved their worth in Timothy's rescue. Without this equipment the rescue would have been impossible.

(4) that it would be useful if cave rescuers had some ready means of identifying themselves - for example by using armbands. It is hoped to have a meeting soon with the Southern Caving Society to work out an improved system of cave search and rescue. We shall obviously have to work together more closely than in the past if we are to have a really efficient search and rescue organization.

It is hoped that a detailed account of the rescue will be published by those involved. If not, we may be able to include an abbreviated account in the next Spiel.

A.S.F. CONFERENCE X'MAS 1970 to be held here??

At the last A.S.F. Conference in Goolwa (S.A.) Tasmania was tentatively put forward as the venue for the next conference to be held at Christmas 1970. We have six months to decide whether to accept or not. If we don't want it it will be held somewhere in Sydney.

The advantages of accepting are obvious. It will give us a chance to meet a large number of mainland cavers and will enable us to show them what we have to offer in the way of caves. The last and only time the conference was held in Hobart was in 1958 and this was quite a success. There's no doubt that such a conference brings cavers from different states closer together and leads to a useful exchange of ideas about caving techniques as well as the more scientific aspects of caving. There is also the possibility that expeditions could be organized to such remote areas as Mount Anne and the Macintosh River. With large parties the use of helicopters to ferry supplies and equipment becomes quite economical.

The disadvantages of accepting are that a lot of work will fall on the shoulders of the few people who are already putting a lot of work into running the club. In a small club like ours this can be a real problem. The possibility of holding the meeting here was discussed at the last general meeting and we came to the conclusion that the invitation could only be made if the Southern Caving Society and the T.C.C. - N.B. were willing to come in with us in acting as hosts so that the invitation would not come just from us but from all cavers in Tasmania. It was decided to approach the other societies to find out their opinions on the subject.

EDIE SMITH AWARD.

At the last A.S.F. Conference the terms of the Edie Smith Award were clarified. The purpose of the award is to perpetuate the memory of Edie Smith and to give recognition to those who have made an outstanding contribution to Australian Speleology over a period of time. The aim is to establish a fund from donations and invest the money in sound securities so that the interest will provide the purchase price of the award which is to be made every two years. The award will consist of an item of permanent value such as a book or photographic print.

The A.S.F. Treasurer is now accepting donations for the fund from both clubs and individuals. This is an opportunity for many cavers who have personally known Edith to make a contribution to help keep alive the memory of her dedication to both the sport of caving and the science of speleology.

Contributions can be made direct to the A.S.F. Treasurer,  
John Noonan, 8/78 Holden St., Nth.Fitzroy, VIC. 3068.

#### CLUB NEWS.

+ Congratulations to Brian and Jeanette Collin with the birth of their first son - Peter John. Brian is already counting the days when he can show Peter all those promising squeezes that are to tight for his father.

+ Also our congratulations and best wishes for the future to Judy Robinson and Robin Booth who will be united in holy matrimony on 5th March. To show that - like true cavers - they don't suffer from claustrophobia they plan to live in a caravan. One disadvantage to the club is obvious! We shall need a new quartermaster.

+ Robin also takes the prize for the most original claim in the state for two hundred dollars worth of damage done to his car on a caving trip. While camping at Sheffield during the last long week-end Robin left his car in a paddock where it was attacked by an irate ram on seeing his reflection in the duco. Result: two new doors and a lot of panel beating was needed. As several cavers have told him since "It doesn't pay to wash your car before trips".

+ At the last general meeting Ross Ellis was elected as an associate member of the club. Ross lives at 52 Bundock St., Randwick, N.S.W. and has for several years been editor of the Sydney speleo journal "Stop Press". He has been one of that club's most enthusiastic eflux diggers at Bungonia. He hopes to come to Tassie one day and see some "real" caves.

+ We are very sorry to have lost another two cavers who have gone interstate. Ray Allsop has gone to Sydney while Kevin Kipling is travelling around Australia before going back to Britain and the cold, wet caves of the Mendips. We wish them all the best!

+ Ian and Stella Farley have returned to Hobart from the wilds of Savage River. Their new address is: 28 Auburn Road, Kingston.

+ Peter Helman has returned to Hobart with his wife Carol after honeymooning in New Zealand. We hope they have plenty of slides to show us. Their present address is c/o 52 St. Georges Terrace, Battery Point.

+ We would like to welcome the following prospective members:-  
David Weymouth, 58 Forest Rd., West Hobart.  
Kevin Johns, 16 Akuna Rd., Montague Bay.  
Graham Hursey, 21 Queen Street, Sandy Bay.

#### TRIP REPORTS.

Exit Cave - Jan.2 - 5, 1969.

Party: Allan Keller(leader), Paul Caffyn and Margot Greenhalgh(all Queenslanders)

Paul and Margo hitch hiked to Lune River by 11.30 a.m. on Thurs.2nd while leader rode motor bike down. Quarryman told of pothole dis-closed at main quarry so went to investigate. Leader and Paul abseiled 60 ft. into large pot and scrambled down another 20 ft. to find narrow fissure widening 10 ft. down, little hope. Prussicked out using jumars.

People and packs ferried to Exit turn off, camped at first campsite in Exit. Alarm clock failed so slept solid for 14 hours(another record?) On Friday abseiled into side passage near bridge to find it blocked by flowstone after 40 ft. Prussicked out and went into Hammer Passage, pushed some talus and found 600 ft. of passage. Shifted camp to Collins Corner.

Went into Dribble System past Devils Stovepipe and abseiled into suspected side passage, looked large, muddy dig by leader with Bowie knife, it'll go, leader stuck feet first, leader supervises own rescue using slings, carabiners and Paul Power. One muddy bedrag-gled leader leads on to East Grand Fissure and some hard talus pushing was done in the Chambers of Damocles chasing a strong breeze, it may yet go. Back to camp.

Had a look at the gypsum needles and walked out, after photography of the Pendulum and the Collonades, two high level routes taken out. Sleet squall on road, Paul and Margo hitched ride and beat cold, wet and bedraggled leader on motorbike to Hobart by  $\frac{3}{4}$  hour. Good, keen trip.

Allan Keller.

Wolf Hole and King George V Cave - Sun.12/1/1969.

Day trip to Hastings with the Adventure Camp Boys.

Club members present: Albert Goede, Peter Brabon, Robin Booth, Bill Hidge and Bernard Howe.

We planned to leave at 7 a.m. but were delayed a little by Bernard who was suffering from that "the morning after the night before" feeling. Glad to say he completely recovered during the day. We reached the camp at 9 a.m. where Albert gave a short talk about caving before we all headed for Hastings. On arrival we split into two parties. Bill and Bernard took five of the boys to King George while we headed up the hill to the Wolf Hole with Iain Barnes, Bill Tomalin, and the remaining six boys. The ladder descent was a slow procedure although everything went smoothly. Peter and Iain speeded things up by abseiling down. The entrance pit and the surrounding bush were remarkably dry. After the first party had gone down the second arrived from King George and also went below with Albert and Bill manning the safety line. It took a long time to bring everybody back to the surface but they all agreed the climb was a memorable experience. An easy day for the leader who never left daylight.

Albert Goede.

Loons Cave and Mystery Ck.Cave, Ida Bay. - 18,19/1/1969.

Trip with four Adventure Camp boys, Iain Barnes and John Kjar.

Club members present:

Sat: Albert Goede, Bill Peterson, Robin Booth, Bernard Howe and Tony Bowring(prosp.)

Sun: Albert Goede, Bill Peterson, Simon Stephens.

On Saturday we all visited Loons Cave using the top entrance and found the cave as wet and muddy as ever. On reaching the end of the main cave the experienced cavers dashed off into a muddy side passage leaving behind Iain and the boys who had been given the impression that this passage did not go very far. In fact we went quite a long way - much of it crawling through mud in tight little passages but the cave opened out in places and some helictites were seen. The party stopped at the edge of a 10 ft. drop due to lack of time. Footprints indicated that only two people had pressed the passage beyond this point since the cave was discovered. Well worth another look if you do not mind getting really dirty. After everybody had emerged the weekend party headed for Mystery Ck. where camp was made.

The following day we made a tour of Mystery Ck.Cave. First an inspection of the squeeze near Midnight Hole where everybody marvelled about the fact that anyone could possibly have gone through such a tight squeeze. As Simon was not keen to repeat the performance we headed for the area below the Canyon where Peter Helman had reported prospects for further exploration downstream. Bill, Simon and Albert pressed a very wet passage until stopped by impassable talus beyond which the creek could be heard again. It is unlikely that further progress will be made here. We emerged from the cave at 3 p.m. and after a late lunch headed back to the cars.

Albert Goede.

Gunns Plains and Loongana - 24,27/1/1969.

Party: Robin Booth(leader), Judi Robinson, Bernard Howe, David Davies(S.U.S.S.)

Frid: Arrived at Sheffield Hostel 11 p.m. and spent night there. Good accomadation.

Sat: During preparations to leave for Gunns Plains discovered a determined ram attempting to wipe out its reflection in Robin's car. Results - both Robin and ram lost a lot of weight during numerous very fast laps of the paddock, but lamb chops were not on the menu for the day. Estimated damage to car 200 dollars!!! Arrived at Gunns Plains at 11.30 a.m. and met David Davies. We then set off for a look at the lower extensions of the tourist cave. River extremely high and flowing very fast. We took several photographs and emerged from the cave into teeming rain which stayed with us for the rest of the day. Surface exploration in a gully two miles south of the tourist cave revealed several promising holes amid a series of sinkholes. Time and weather did not permit further exploration. The idea of camping in the rain was abandoned so party headed for Sheffield again for the night.

Sun: Arrived at Loongana in still doubtful weather at 11 a.m. After lunch located and explored the old tourist cave. A very interesting system but a bit short of formations. Very good glow worm displays in several places along the water route. Much of the cave is very

low-roofed and hard on the back which makes one wonder as to the breed of tourists who used to go through it. Several tight chimneys encountered. Excellent formations near where the syphon is reached. Emerged from the cave after 4½ hours and camped on the banks of the Leven River for the night.

Mon: Weather at last took a turn for the better. Before breakfast Robin and Bernard forded the Leven and did some surface exploration on the far side. No new holes were found but the area above the cliff face lends itself to further exploration and if one has a head for heights there are several obvious holes high up in the face of the cliff itself. After breakfast David left us to head for Burnie. Robin and Bernard had a quick look at Swallownest Cave and then attempted to locate Leven Cave by wading up the river. Apart from being very wet this got slightly dangerous as well so the attempt was abandoned. 12.30 p.m. headed back to Hobart via Gowrie Park and Mole Creek. A very interesting drive by this route. Despite the dull weather which was somewhat compensated for by Judi's wet-weather cooking a very pleassany weekend was had by all. The campsite at Loongana is excellent and although the caves that are known are not over-inspiring much exploration could still be done in the area. Any takers for Hells Gates?

Robin Booth.

Ida Bay - Sunday 9/2/1969.

Party: B.Collin and A.Goede.

A day trip to take a traverse from the Old Quarry to Chockstone Pot. Survey was started in Old Quarry at station 14 of Midnight Hole traverse. From there along the La Perouse track then following the contour west from above the limestone - sandstone boundary. Many hours and 92 stations later we reached Chockstone Pot which has an impressive but forbidding entrance. Plotting of the traverse by Brian later showed that the longest distance between two points is not a straight line. On the way back close to the track and not far from the Old Quarry we discovered a spectacular sinkhole 20 x 40 ft. with vertical walls and requiring a ladder. There could be a passage leading off from the bottom towards the south. It is well worth a look. The weather was cloudy and humid with a little rain early in the day. Leeches were in good supply.

Albert Goede.

#### FORWARD PROGRAMME.

- March 1,2,3, - Lorinna.Leader: P.Brabon.  
                  - Exit Cave. Leader: A.Keller.  
March 4 - Tuesday. General meeting at 8 p.m. 66 Wentworth Street, South Hobart.  
March 15,16 - Track cutting to Mt.Anne. Leader: B.Collin.  
MARCH 26 - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. Wednesday at 8 p.m. 2 Nightingale Avenue, Tarooma. Attend if you can even if you possibly can't.  
April 4-7 - Easter. Suggestions will be welcomed at the next meeting. Mole Creek, Exit Cave and Mt.Anne are possibilities.

Brian Collin is willing to run day trips to Marble Hill, Ida Bay any Saturday to carry out surface exploration. Anyone willing to go should contact him. Phone: home: 2 1920, business 30 4686. There is a lot of ground to be covered yet! With the 2 deepest caves in Australia already to its credit Marble Hill is likely to yield more spectacular potholes.

#### Famous Last Words.

Up Here For Thinking.

Wanted: Good homes for four ginger male kittens - perfect gentlemen. Anybody who would like one or who knows of some who might please contact T.Goede, 8 Bath Street, Battery Point. Urgent!!

TASMANIAN CAVERNEERING CLUB.CAVE SEARCH AND RESCUE ORGANISATION.

Our search and rescue organisation was established in 1959 and became affiliated with the Police Dept. in August of that year. The organisation is on call on a continuous basis. Except in the case where our services are required by club members it comes into action only when assistance is requested by the Police Department.

Drill For Search And Rescue.

When the Police Headquarters in Hobart receive a call calling for assistance in a cave rescue operation they will contact the club's rescue coordinators. The coordinators should find out as much as possible about the person or party requiring rescue. They then contact the next six people on the list and request them to collect their personal gear and any club gear likely to be needed during rescue operations before going to Police Headquarters as quickly as possible. The people contacted will form the advance party which will leave for the rescue area after obtaining the latest information. If there are indications that the rescue will be lengthy and will require liaison with the police and other rescue bodies the club's public relations officer should be alerted immediately.

The coordinators will remain in Hobart and will be kept in touch with any further developments, or will make arrangements for a reliable person to act as coordinator in their place. If there are indications that the rescue will be a lengthy operation or that it requires a larger party the coordinators will alert the remaining members appearing on our list. If police are unable to contact the coordinators they will contact one of the next three persons on the list, who will act as coordinator.

The rescue party shall be in charge of a rescue leader who will be elected from the party leaders of the club.

If information indicates that a doctor is required the club coordinator 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.

ADDRESS LIST. (Revised February, 1969).Coordinators:

Mr. and Mrs. B. Collin, Home: 66 Wentworth St., South Hobart, 2 1920.  
Bus: H.E.C. 16 Elizabeth St., Systems Development. 30 4686.

If not available:

R. Booth, Home: 2 Nightingale Ave., Taroona. 58538.

Bus: A.B.C. 2 7821 ext. 227.

A. Goede, Home: 8 Bath St., Batt. Pt., 34 4713 (emergencies only, NOT between 9 p.m. & 7 a.m.)

Bus: Geography Dept., University of Tasmania, 2 7741 ext. 415.

P. Brabon, Home: 122 Augusta Rd., Lenah Valley.

Bus: Canes, Elizabeth St., 34 2733.

Other members on call:

F. Brown, Home: 15 Harrington St., 2 2101.

Bus: Claremont High, 7 1619 or 7 1524.

W. Peterson, Home: 12 Auvergne Ave., New Town. 8 4977.

Bus: Geology Dept., Uni. of Tas., 2 7741 ext. 408.

W. Hodge, Home: 5 Bayley St., Glebe. 34 4716 (emergencies only).

Bus: Video Sound Services, 141 Murray St., 34 1180.

A. Keller, Home: c/o 5 Bayley St., Glebe.

Bus: F.C. Clinch, 44 Feltham St., Nth. Hobart. 34 3595.

R. Hughes, Home: 79 Poets Road, West Hobart.

Bus: P.M.G. 329 Argyle St., 20 8372 or 20 8534.

S. Stephens, Home: 365 Argyle St., Nth. Hobart.

Bus: Mines Dept., Davey St., 30 3011.

E. B. Corbett, Mrs. Home: 42 St. Georges Terrace, Battery Point.

Bus: B.H.P. Geological Office, 2 Patrick St., Hobart. 34 1063.

If you don't - KEEP THIS LIST HANDY - it could mean a life.