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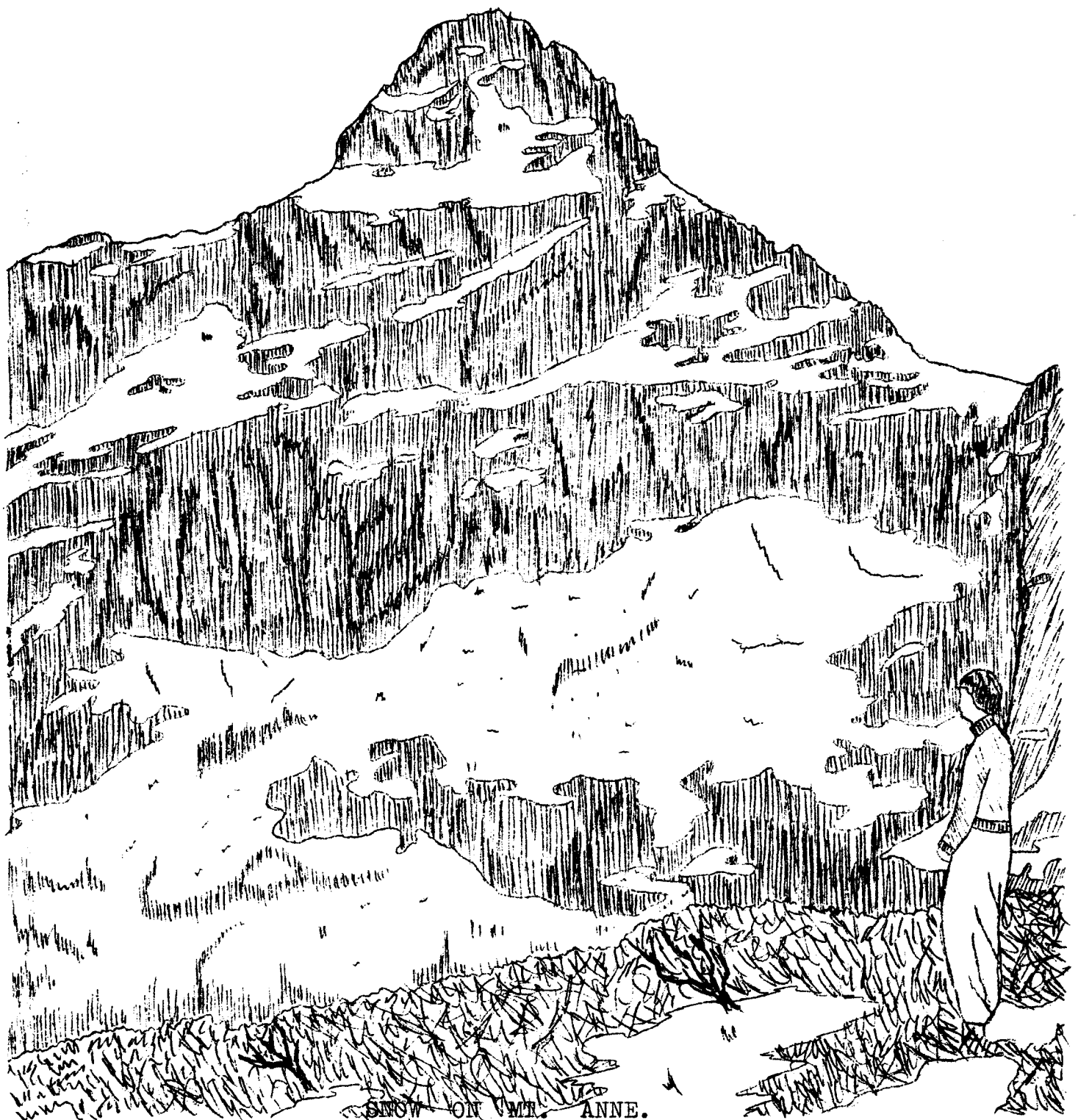
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SNOW ON MOUNT ANNE.

FORWARD PROGRAMME.

- November 23 - SUNDAY. Day trip; surface exploration in Junee area. Leader: B.Collin.
- November 30 - SUNDAY. Visit to new cave. Exploration and photography. Leader: A.Goede.
- December 3 - WEDNESDAY. 8 p.m. General meeting at National Fitness Building, Room 8, 59 Collins Street.
- December 6 - SATURDAY. All members are invited to a Barrel (beer) Night at Anne and Terry's place, to celebrate amongst other things the fact that Terry is 'unfit', and Christmas is coming. Terry and Anne are providing the barrel so please come and help them drink it. Bring some supper and if you are a connoisseur your own top shelf stuff. Address: 63 Colville Street, Battery Point, Come any time after 7.30.
- December 7 - SUNDAY. Visit to Bradley Chestermans Cave, Ida Bay. Leader: R.Booth.
- December 13,14 - Mt.Anne. Leader: B.Collin.

Death of John Boyle.

It is with the deepest regret that we announce the death of one of our members whilst on an exploratory trip in the Mt.Anne area. John was in a party of four exploring the north-eastern end of the dolomite ridge of Mt.Anne. Sometime on Saturday afternoon while they were descending the ridge on their way back to camp John became separated from the others and apparently lost his way. The others searched the area later in the afternoon and again the following morning without success. The alarm was raised on Sunday afternoon and the following week saw one of the most extensive bush searches ever made in Tasmania. Footprints presumed to be John's were found in several places indicating that at one stage he may have been within 200 yds. of camp. John was not found and the official search was finally abandoned nine days after his disappearance. It is appropriate here to thank all clubs, organizations and individuals who took part in the search. To mention a few, the Climbing Club of Tasmania (of which John was also a member), our sister clubs S.C.S. and T.C.C.N.B., Hobart Walking Club, police, H.E.C., Royal Navy and many others too numerous to mention. The search has shown that in an emergency such as this many clubs must work together. At our last meeting it was decided that we should join the Bushwalkers Federation and become part of an integrated search and rescue system.

John was a Sydney caver who joined the club as an associate member several years ago but did not come to Tasmania until early this year. During his short time with us we had all come to like him. His love of the bush, mountains and caves was obvious from the start. At a slide evening (only a week before his disappearance) he showed us his slides of N.S.W. and Milford Sound in New Zealand where he stayed for several months. The slides that impressed me most of those taken at Milford Sound were the ones of Mitre Peak - a mountain he managed to capture in many different moods so reminiscent of our own south-west.

John will be missed and fondly remembered. We extend our deepest sympathies to his parents, his brother Ken and other relatives. It seems appropriate that John should lie close to the mountains and caves that meant so much to him.

General Meetings.

At our last general meeting the president and secretary suggested that in future general meetings be held on the first Wednesday of every month at Rm.8, 59 Collins Street. The room would be available at 50 cents per night. The meeting agreed to this for a three months trial period.

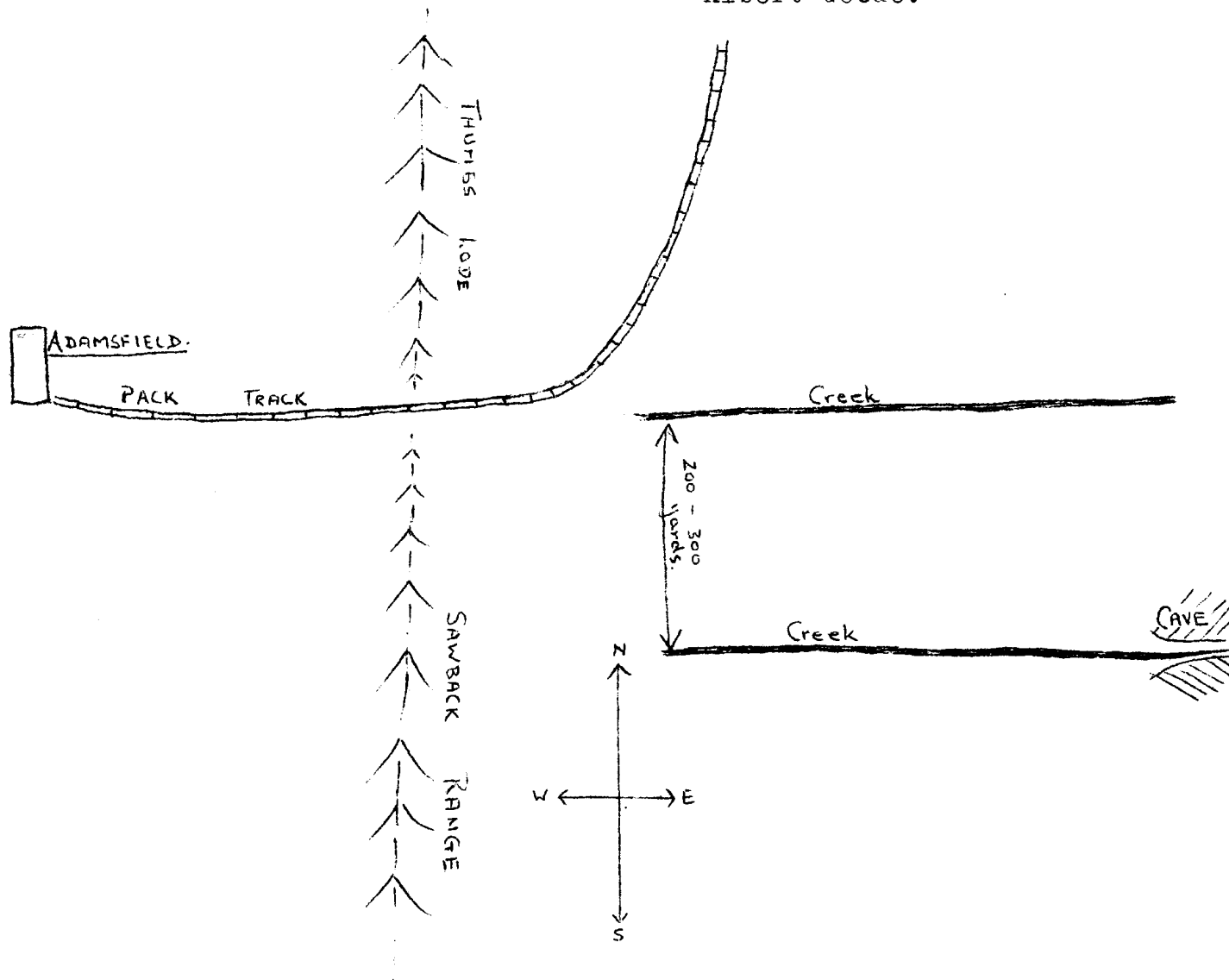
TRIP REPORTS.

Adamsfield - Saturday 18th October, 1969.

Party: Albert and Therese Goede, Frank Brown, Doug Turner, Denis Seymour, and his nieces Delia and Anne, Kees Sparreboom. The aim of the trip was to find and explore a cave reputed to exist to the east of Adamsfield. Information about it was obtained a few weeks earlier by Albert and Therese when they visited the Avoca district in their hunt for cave crickets in old mine tunnels. We met an old prospector called Fenton who was one of the first to work the Adamsfield area. When we told him we were cavers he told us about

a cave on the western side of the Florentine valley with a creek flowing into it. He said he had followed it underground for a short distance and that it was 30 ft. high and could be followed further. He also drew the sketch included in this report. Therese and I left Hobart at 7.30 a.m. and met the others at the barrier a little after 9 a.m. We left our car and in three four wheel drive vehicles the party headed along the Gordon River Rd., We had joined Kees in his Nissan Patrol. The Adamsfield track proved a real test for both vehicles and passengers but the bumpy ride was compensated for by the magnificent views of the Sawback Range at close quarters. It took us two hours to reach our destination with some amusing moments after Kees had "beached" his Nissan on a big rock. Having arrived we had an early lunch after which most of the party headed downhill towards some old workings while Doug and Frank went off to see the town. After arriving at the workings we took a southerly compass bearing and soon came to the next creek. This was followed down for some distance by Kees and myself but showed no signs of going underground. The next creek to the south also showed no subterranean tendencies and appeared to be a tributary of the first one. Further south still we came to a dry valley which we crossed and then followed up stream on the southern side where there was a marked hill. A little discouraged we decided to give the search away and headed back towards the vehicles. After some really thick scrub we emerged on the open buttongrass slopes of the Sawback Range. A look at the aerial photographs suggested that we had probably not gone far enough south but no one was keen to press the search. Back to the vehicles where we got a good fire going and had a cuppa. Still no sign of Doug and Frank so Kees tried to back his vehicle round Frank's only to become bogged in the middle of the fireplace. After digging out some hot coals we got him back on the road. Driving back towards Adamsfield we met Doug's Rover in the worst possible spot and some interesting manoeuvres were carried out. The return trip was enlivened by arduous attempts to keep Kees' muffler attached to his vehicle but the track finally won. We silently prayed as our "flying dutchman" drove his Nissan at high speed on the wrong side of the road and thanked our lucky stars that it was Saturday and not Sundaynight. A very worthwhile trip even though the cave was not found. We now have a fair idea where to look next time.

Albert Goede.



Florentine - Sunday 2 November, 1969.

Party: Albert and Therese Goede, Terry and Anne Parkes, Wes Carpenter.

The original purpose of the trip was to do some surface exploration near Junee but the scrub would be wet after days of rain and Don when phoned for a permit mentioned a new cave in the Florentine Valley recently discovered during logging operations and already explored for half a mile by S.C.S. so we made a quick change of plan. We left at 8 a.m. and gathered at the Fitzgerald store where by chance we met Don who marked the location of the cave for us on the map (Wedge Sheet, approx. 4449E, 7525N) and wrote us a permit on the spot. Having arrived at our destination we had a bite to eat and then following directions soon found the cave. The entrance does not look promising consisting of three small holes at the head of a dry valley but once inside a breeze indicated that this was no small cave. We set off with Anne's lamp frequently catching fire and soon found a crawl which proved easy to negotiate except by Wes who insisted on doing it with his rucksack on. At the first opportunity we climbed out of the stream passage which was dry except for some pools, and explored a high level passage packed with formation. We were very impressed but much more was to come. Back in the stream passage we found a pool full of some Anaspides and amphipods and Therese and I collected some specimens. A little further we came to a running stream disappearing into a siphon. From there on we followed high level passages wherever opportunity offered and admired the wealth of formation. In places it was impossible to avoid walking on formations although we were as careful as possible. Terry had the interesting experience of falling through a false floor three times in quick succession while trying to avoid walking over flowstone. Wes used his camera to advantage and we are looking forward to his slides. We spent a pleasant and leisurely four hours underground without getting to the end of the cave. The route back was much quicker as we followed the stream down. The cave is undoubtedly the best formation cave yet found in the Florentine Valley. Of particular interest is the high level about 15 ft. above the present stream passage which keeps on crossing the latter at a marked angle. The cave is well worth another visit. It is easy to reach and explore. The formations are superb and it is an ideal place for photography.

Albert Goede.

The following trip report was supplied to us by the Monash Bushwalking Club and should be very useful to anyone contemplating a search for caves in the Weld River area.

WELD RIVER.

Report:- Don Weston.

Date of trip:- 17 - 25 May 1969.

Party:- Leader:- C.Rose,
G.Newton, D.Weston, I.Enting, B.Enting, C.Handfield.

Log of Trip.

Party flew to Devonport, hitched to Frodshams Pass on the Gordon River Rd. and walked along the old Port Davey track to Damper Inn. The track is in fair condition though overgrown in spots, but Damper Inn is not habitable. The creek at Damper Inn was then followed south to the first campsite ("Wedge" MR441.0, 728.0). The first evidence of limestone was seen at approx. (MR439.8, 729.0). Going along the creek was slow, especially in the gorge sections which were littered with fallen trees. After a day of exploration the campsite was shifted to (MR441.2, 727.3). The flat area shown on the map on the west side of the river from the campsite would be suitable for airdropping.

The country in this region could be divided into three zones:

riverbanks - overgrown, steep and mossy with many fallen logs.

limestone areas - mainly flat with many sinkholes and limestone "castles", covered with fairly open beech forests.

ridges - steep sided, many huge mountain ashes. Covered with 3 ft. high bracken and tangles of fallen logs.

After exploring the riverbanks from campsite 1 to the cave W6 (see attached map) most exploration was carried out by straight compass course trips. About 60 sinkholes were investigated, but with one exception they were blocked.

The party returned on an approx. N.W. compass course from campsite 2. The going was much easier than along the river except for some very thick scrub about (MR439, 729).

Cost of trip: air fares - 24 dollars, food - 10 dollars/Total \$34.

W1. The Chasm. A hole at the bottom of a deep sinkhole on the ridge, S.E. from Camp 2. A 20 foot vertical pitch led to a horizontal passage which after 20 ft. became too narrow for further progress.

W2. Black Hole. The entrance is located by a huge black stump on the edge of a large collapse area near W1. A vertical shaft led down through loose earth and rocks. It narrowed after about 25 ft. but seemed to continue vertically for a long distance after this point. It was decided that it was too dangerous to explore this cave any further.

W3. Gail's Hole. The entrance was located at the base of a limestone cliff on the Weld 100 yds. north of Camp 2. The cave becomes too small after 6 ft. for further progress.

W4. Bone Cave. A large entrance in the limestone bluffs on the Weld 150 yds. downstream from Camp 2. The cave is shallow and contains many small bones.

W5. Stream Cave. This cave has been cut by a tributary which joins the Weld at (MR441.1, 726.2). The stream flows underground for about 50 ft. then drops into the Weld. A 30 ft. dry side passage led to a chamber with some decoration.

W6. Upstream Cave. 150 yds. upstream of W5, the stream drops into a 20 ft. deep pot then flows underground for about 100 yds. The water in the passage was about 3 - 5 ft. deep and the passage was not explored beyond the entrance.

Note. Ropes were used to explore W1 and W6.

Potential for Future Investigation.

The high rainfall and the prolific plant growth of the Weld River area have contributed to the extensive solution of the limestone seen by the party. However, these factors are also probably responsible for the blocking of the sinkholes in the area. The only sizeable caves found were associated with running water. Exploration further downriver may reveal other such caves but it is felt that the thick vegetation and difficulty of access will limit the investigation of the Weld caves for a long time to come.

Famous Last Words.

"Matchboxes which rattle do not always contain matches."

(Ask Albert!)

