

THE CAVES OF WILLIAMSON COUNTY

**Edited by James R. Reddell
and Richard Finch**

**Texas Speleological Survey
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TEXAS SPELEOLOGICAL SURVEY

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Editors: James R. Reddell
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THE CAVES OF WILLIAMSON COUNTY

GEOLOGY

This Central Texas county lies across the Balcones Fault Zone with the Blackland Prairie and the Gulf Coastal Plain in the eastern half and the Edwards Plateau in the west. It has an average annual precipitation of 32.7 inches and a mean annual temperature of 66°. Total relief within the county is 700', but does not exceed 200' locally. The North and South San Gabriel Rivers drain the plateau country in an easterly direction and there are numerous other small spring-fed streams throughout the county.

At this point, the Balcones Fault Zone's en echelon march northward has been reduced to a rout step. The fault system does not extend throughout the county and the northernmost fault of the system ends about 15 miles from the Williamson-Bell County line. Additional major faults occur as far as ten miles east and west of the main zone. The faults comprising the zone trend slightly east of north and parallel to and near U.S. Highway 81. All of the faults are downthrown to the east and the maximum throw of any one of them is about 200'. In most places the Georgetown Formation is downfaulted against the Edwards Limestone so that the fault zone does not necessarily mark the easternmost limit of caves. Outcrops of the Upper Cretaceous shales and clays begin not far from the fault zone, however, limiting the area of speleological interest to a mile or two east of the fault zone.

Rocks of Cretaceous and Eocene Age outcrop in Williamson County. The Eocene and Upper Cretaceous formations in the eastern half of the county are almost entirely clays and sands and of no speleological importance. In the western half, Lower Cretaceous limestones predominate with some interbedded clays and marls.

The regional dip is to the southeast one to three degrees, increasing slightly in the western half of the county as the fault zone is approached.

Glen Rose Formation - The Glen Rose limestone outcrops in a few creeks in the extreme western part of Williamson County. No caves are known to occur in it.

Walnut Formation - The average thickness of the Walnut is slightly over 100'. It is composed of interbedded clay, marl, and chalky, nodular limestone. Its clays and marls present a distinct lower boundary for solutional activity.

Comanche Peak Formation - The Comanche Peak consists of marly, grayish-white limestone. Its thickness averages about 75'. Its exposures in Williamson County comprise a good many of the hillslopes and shallow valleys. It contains considerably more limestone than the Walnut but is still speleologically unimportant because of its marly character.

Edwards Formation - The Edwards Limestone comprises by far the majority of outcrops in western Williamson County. Here, as in other parts of the state, it is the major cave-former. Its dense, massive character and its numerous reefs are especially suited to cave-forming. Its average thickness is about 175' and it thins to the north. More than 95 percent of the caves in the county occur in it.

Georgetown Formation - The majority of the aerial outcrops of the Georgetown occurs as a band running north-south through the central part of the county. A small patch is present about ten miles northwest of the city of Georgetown. The major portion of the formation is highly faulted and fractured by the Balcones Fault system, except in the northern part of the county where the fault system is absent. The Georgetown is not as consistent in its cave-forming character as the Edwards but it does contain some caves. Bat-Well is situated near the contact of the

Georgetown with the underlying Edwards. The cave's entrance is in the Georgetown and it continues on into the Edwards. The thickness of the Georgetown averages slightly over 100'. In Williamson County it contains some shale interbedded with the flaggy limestone.

As can be seen from the location map, most of the known caves are in the southwest part of the county. This is partly due to the geologic situation but is mainly a function of their accessibility and their proximity to Austin. The Edwards Limestone does thin toward the north and becomes more marly but as evidenced by those caves in Bell County it still retains enough of its speleological characteristics to contain caves. The northern part of the county is the speleologically unexplored part of Williamson County and it is here that future work should be concentrated.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: Acknowledgements are here made to the following biologists for their identification of invertebrate fauna for the Texas Speleological Survey: millipeds - Dr. Nell B. Causey, University of Arkansas; spiders and scorpions - Dr. W. J. Gertsch, American Museum of Natural History; carabid and pselaphid beetles - Dr. Thomas C. Barr, Jr. University of Kentucky; staphylinid beetles - Dr. Milton W. Sanderson, Illinois Natural History Survey; cave crickets - Dr. Theodore H. Hubbell, University of Michigan; collembola - Dr. H. G. Scott, Communicable Disease Center; crayfish - Dr. Horton H. Hobbs, United States National Museum; asellid isopods - Dr. Harrison R. Steeves, Birmingham, Alabama.



CAVE LOCATIONS KEYED TO INDEX

- 2 X SINGLE CAVE
- 4-7 ○ GROUP OF CAVES

WEST HALF OF
WILLIAMSON COUNTY, TEXAS

Index to the Caves of Williamson County

| NO. | NAME | LOCALITY | LENGTH | DEPTH | PAGE |
|-----|---------------------------------|------------|---------|---------|------|
| 1. | Elm Bat Cave | Jarrell | 600' | 30' | 28 |
| 2. | Cricket Cave | Jarrell | 70' | 40' | 25 |
| 3. | Rattlesnake Filled Cave | Jarrell | 50' | 20' | 43 |
| 4. | Elm Water Cave | Jarrell | 250' | 35' | 30 |
| 5. | Jacob's Well | Jarrell | 70' | 45' | 36 |
| 6. | Cobb Caverns | Florence | 2,500' | 40' | 19 |
| 7. | Blowing Cave | Florence | 150' | 40' | 15 |
| 8. | Coffin Cave | Florence | 800' | 60' | 22 |
| 9. | Cat Cave | Florence | 30' | 10' | 17 |
| 10. | Bat-Well | Georgetown | 1,000' | 50' | 7 |
| 11. | Reply Cave #2 | Georgetown | 40' | 10' | 44 |
| 12. | Williams Surprise Cave | Georgetown | 200' | 30' | 5 |
| 13. | Williams Cave No. 1 | Georgetown | 150' | 30' | 53 |
| 14. | Lorring's Unseen Rattler Cave | Georgetown | 25' | 12' | 39 |
| 15. | Cavitt's Catastrophe | Georgetown | 40' | 0' | 17 |
| 16. | The Gold Mine | Georgetown | ? | ? | 33 |
| 17. | The Chimney | Georgetown | 30' | 20' | 18 |
| 18. | Three-Mile Cave | Georgetown | 200' | 30' | 50 |
| 19. | The Ballroom #2 Cave | Georgetown | 50' | 10' | 7 |
| 20. | Four-Mile Cave | Georgetown | 120' | 20' | 31 |
| 21. | Ramsel's Corral Cave | Georgetown | ? | ? | 43 |
| 22. | The Lookout | Georgetown | 30' | 0' | 39 |
| 23. | Lozano's Mine | Georgetown | 35' | 20' | 39 |
| 24. | Riderless Cave | Georgetown | 105'+ | 20' | 44 |
| 25. | Elm-Oak Sink | Georgetown | 50' | 5' | 30 |
| 26. | Red House Ranch Cave | Georgetown | 300' | 40' | 43 |
| 27. | Four Corners Cave | Georgetown | 300' | 35' | 31 |
| 28. | Goat Cave | Georgetown | 150' | 60' | 33 |
| 29. | Ku Klux Klan Cave | Georgetown | 90' | 20' | 39 |
| 30. | Man-With-A-Spear Cave | Georgetown | 150' | 30' | 41 |
| 31. | Circle Cave | Georgetown | 50' (?) | 10' | 19 |
| 32. | Bone Cave | Georgetown | 75' | 25' | 15 |
| 33. | The Devil's Wishing Well | Georgetown | 10' | 27' | 27 |
| 34. | Playhouse Cave | Georgetown | ? | ? | 42 |
| 35. | Chinaberry Cave | Georgetown | 900' | 25' | 18 |
| 36. | Sapling Sink | Georgetown | 20' | 15' | 46 |
| 37. | Steam Cave | Georgetown | 2,000' | 30' | 47 |
| 38. | Fence-Line Sink | Georgetown | 80' | 15' | 30 |
| 39. | Crystal Sixty | Georgetown | 150' | 10' (?) | 26 |
| 40. | Crystal Sixty-Three | Georgetown | 300' | 15' (?) | 27 |
| 41. | Buzzard Cave | Georgetown | 90' | 12' | 17 |
| 42. | Roy's Folly #1 Cave | Georgetown | 30' | 10' | 46 |
| 43. | Roy's Folly #2 Cave | Georgetown | 25' | 10' | 46 |
| 44. | Boy Scouts' Cave | Georgetown | 40' | 0' | 17 |
| 45. | Heart of Texas Ranch Cave No. 1 | Georgetown | 25' | 7' | 35 |
| 46. | Heart of Texas Ranch Cave No. 2 | Georgetown | 50' | 12' | 35 |
| 47. | Heart of Texas Ranch Cave No. 3 | Georgetown | 25' | 8' | 35 |
| 48. | Heart of Texas Ranch Cave No. 4 | Georgetown | 15' | 15' | 36 |
| 49. | Heart of Texas Trash Cave | Georgetown | 40'+ | 13' | 36 |
| 50. | Round Rock Breathing Cave | Round Rock | 40' | 15' | 44 |

| | | | | |
|----------------------------|------------|---------|---------|----|
| 51. Walsh Ranch Sink No. 1 | Round Rock | 20' | 15' | 53 |
| 52. Walsh Ranch Sink No. 2 | Round Rock | 10' | 15' | 53 |
| 53. Elm Cave | Round Rock | 40' | 10' | 28 |
| 54. Walsh Ranch Cave | Round Rock | 100' | 20' | 53 |
| 55. Crumly's Cave | Whitestone | ? | ? | 25 |
| 56. Crystal Cave | Georgetown | 50'+ | ? | 25 |
| 57. Tonguegate's Cave | Round Rock | ? | 30' (?) | 50 |
| 58. Beck Bat Cave | Round Rock | 200' | 20' | 9 |
| 59. Beck Garden Cave | Round Rock | 30' | 10' | 9 |
| 60. Beck Horse Cave | Round Rock | 150' | 20' | 11 |
| 61. Beck Ranch Cave | Round Rock | 2,200' | 31' | 11 |
| 62. Beck Rattlesnake Cave | Round Rock | ? | ? | 13 |
| 63. Beck Sewer Cave | Round Rock | ? | ? | 13 |
| 64. Bottle-Neck Cave | Jollyville | 10' | 15' | 17 |
| 65. McNeil Quarry Cave | McNeil | 100' | 15' | 40 |
| 66. Mural Cave | McNeil | 150' | 40' | 41 |
| 67. Unnamed cave | Georgetown | 6,000'+ | 70' | 55 |
| 68. McBonnet Cave | Whitestone | 25' | 16' | 40 |

DOUBTFUL AND MAN-MADE CAVES:

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------|-----|----|----|
| 1a. Russell's Bat-Well Snake Hole | Georgetown | 5' | 5' | 58 |
| 2a. Reply #3 Sink | Georgetown | ? | ? | 58 |
| 3a. Williams Cave Sink | Georgetown | ? | ? | 61 |
| 4a. Wuza Cave | Georgetown | ? | ? | 61 |
| 5a. Disappointment Entrance | Georgetown | ? | 5' | 57 |
| 6a. Lion's Head Cave | Georgetown | ? | ? | 58 |
| 7a. Sand Cave | Georgetown | 0' | 8' | 59 |
| 8a. Three-Mile Sink | Georgetown | 15' | 5' | 60 |
| 9a. Achilles Cave | Georgetown | 6' | 3' | 57 |
| 10a. Triangle Ranch Cave | Georgetown | ? | ? | 60 |
| 11a. Tinnel Cave | Georgetown | ? | 2' | 60 |
| 12a. Leander Road Sinks | Georgetown | ? | ? | 58 |
| 13a. Spotted Sink | Georgetown | ? | ? | 59 |
| 14a. Cactus Cave | Georgetown | 10' | ? | 57 |
| 15a. Leander Road Crevice No. 1 | Georgetown | ? | ? | 58 |
| 16a. Gay's Cave | Georgetown | 5' | 3' | 57 |
| 17a. Treasure Cave | Georgetown | ? | ? | 60 |
| 18a. Skunk Cave | Georgetown | ? | ? | 59 |
| 19a. Run-In Sink | Florence | ? | 4' | 58 |
| 20a. Shallow Cave | Georgetown | ? | 6' | 59 |
| 21a. Heart of Texas Ranch Sink | Georgetown | 4' | 2' | 57 |
| 22a. Slim's Folly | McNeil | ? | 6' | 59 |

ALTERNATE CAVE NAMES:

Achilles Flop - Achilles Cave
 Armadillo Cave - Elm-Oak Sink
 Bat Cave - Chinaberry Cave
 Beck's Tin Can Cave - Beck Ranch Cave
 Boot Cave - Chinaberry Cave
 Caluett's Hole - Four Corners Cave
 Coon Cave - Buzzard Cave
 Elm Cave - Elm Bat Cave
 Fox Cave - Chinaberry Cave

Goat Shelter - Beck's Bat Cave
Godwin's Goat Grave Cave - Reply Cave #2
Merrill Cave - Mural Cave
Overby Ranch Cave No. 1 - Heart of Texas Ranch Cave No. 1
Overby Ranch Cave No. 2 - Heart of Texas Ranch Cave No. 2
Overby Ranch Cave No. 3 - Heart of Texas Ranch Cave No. 3
Park Cave - Sand Cave
Pietsch's Folly - Chinaberry Cave
Red House Cave - Red House Ranch Cave
Reply Cave #4 - Lorfing's Unseen Rattler Cave
Sam Bass Cave - McNeil Quarry Cave
Schneider Ranch Cave - Triangle Ranch Cave
Seven Room Cave - Williams Cave No. 1
Spider Rock Cave - Williams Surprise Cave (?)
Stream Cave - Elm Water Cave
The Tin Can Hole - Three-Mile Cave
Whitley Ranch Cave - Elm Water Cave (?)

THE BALLROOM #2 CAVE

-7-
Williamson County (# 19)

Georgetown 30' Quadrangle

Owner: Dr. Frederick C. Lowry

Description: The entrance is a 4' in diameter sink sloping over small rocks for about 5' where a rock pillar divides the passage. The slope continues into a room about 30' wide, 40' long, and 2'-4' high. Large breakdown blocks cover the floor at the back of the cave and what may be a passage extends from one side, but it is too small to follow for more than a few feet.

Biology: A spider, Cicurina sp., was collected by James Reddell on August 4, 1963. It shows no modification for a cave environment.

Ref: TSS and SSS files

THE BAT-WELL

Williamson County (# 10)

Round Rock 15' Quadrangle

Owner: John Suddeth

Description: The cave is entered by a shallow sink several feet in diameter. A crawl from the bottom leads, after 20', to a fissure-like shaft dropping 25' to the main level of the cave. The entrance is located on the side of a small gully draining into Berry's Creek and takes much water after rains. Equipment is necessary to enter the shaft. At the bottom of the drop the main passage of the cave extends in two directions, approximately NW-SE, as a 5'-10' wide, 20' high passage. The West Tunnel is the largest and most impressive passage in the cave. It extends 345' as a 15'-20' high, 10'-15' wide passage. The floor is covered with much guano and a fairly large colony of bats inhabits this portion of the cave. Near the end of the passage a small pool is to be found along the left-hand wall. The passage here becomes very narrow and becomes blocked by silt and organic debris. The East Tunnel is a high, but narrow, passage running 121' before forking into the Downstream and Upstream Tunnels. About 50'-75' down the East Tunnel a small hole in the ceiling lets in a shaft of light, but it is too small to enter. In a few places dripstone covers the walls. The Upstream Tunnel is entered by a short crawl. Average ceiling height of the passage is about 7'. A few short stalactites and draperies decorate this passage, but are of only passing interest. Near the end of the passage, which is 163' long, a small stream enters from the right wall, crosses the passage, and disappears down a hole. No attempt has been made to follow the water upstream. The Downstream Tunnel extends 90', making several bends along the way. It intersects what is assumed to be the same stream as that found in the Upstream Tunnel. A short passage to the left, the Pocket Tunnel, extends 32' before ending against a steep mud bank. A small hole near the Pocket Tunnel might be excavated to reach what appears to be an open passage. At the end of the dry portion of the Downstream Tunnel a belly-crawl through a pool of water brings one into the stream proper. The stream intersects the crawl at right angles and can be explored in both directions; however the only exploration has been downstream. About 20' downstream a second stream enters the first, apparently the same stream as that which can be heard below the Pocket Tunnel. Upstream in this passage it becomes too small after a few feet. The stream passage has been explored for an estimated 25'. The stream bottom of the main stream passage varies from silt and mud to solid rock and averages about 8" deep. The passage ranges from 2'-3' wide, but the ceiling never permits more than a crawl and at the end of 250' it dips so low as to almost become a siphon. Total surveyed passage in the cave is 751'. The entrance to the cave is in the Georgetown Limestone, while the main portion lies in the Edwards Limestone. (See map, page 10)

History: The cave was mined in 1909 for guano, and has apparently been entered several times since then. In only one place, however, has there been any vandalism. In the East Tunnel a few faint initials have been scratched in flowstone. The cave was entered and partially explored by Richard Finch, Edwin Dornbusch, and another caver from Georgetown early in 1962. It was mapped, except for the downstream water crawl, in May 1962, by Richard Finch, B. Wall, G. Davis, and D. Lemons of the Southwestern Speleological Society. This crawl was explored prior to December 1962 by Garry Leavell and John Brockman. A trip for collection purposes was made on January 31, 1963, by Richard Finch, Mills Tandy, and other members of the Southwestern Speleological Society; a second collecting trip was made by James Reddell, Richard Finch, and Mike Lorring on March 24, 1963.

Biology: The cave is of some biological interest. The West Tunnel houses one of the larger bat colonies in Williamson County. Other vertebrates commonly found in the cave include Marnock's Frog, Syrrhophus marnocki Cope. A record of the Texas Barking Frog, Eleutherodactylus latrans, awaits verification. Rattlesnakes, both on the main level and around the entrance, are fairly common. A faunal list follows:

- Arthropoda
 - Crustacea
 - Amphipoda (not collected)
 - Isopoda
 - Asellus sp.
 - Decapoda
 - Procambarus simulans simulans (Faxon)
 - Myriapoda
 - Chilopoda
 - Diplopoda
 - Cambala speobius (Chamberlin)
 - Speodesmus bicornourus Causey
- Insecta
 - Orthoptera
 - Ceuthophilus sp. (not collected)
 - Collembola
 - Coleoptera
 - Pselaphidae
 - Batrisodes sp.
 - Staphylinidae
- Arachnida
 - Phalangida (not collected)
 - Araneae
 - Cicurina varians Gertsch & Mulaik
 - Meioneta sp.
 - Nesticus sp.
- Mollusca
 - Gastropoda (not collected)
- Chordata
 - Amphibia
 - Eleutherodactylus latrans (?)
 - Syrrhophus marnocki Cope
 - Reptilia
 - Rattlesnakes (not collected)
 - Unidentified non-poisonous snakes (not collected)
 - Mammalia
 - Chiroptera (not collected)

- Bibliography: Anonymous. "News: Southwestern Univ." The Texas Caver, Vol. VII, No. 5, pp. 72-73. May, 1962.
Finch, Richard. "S.S.S. Reports on The Bat-Well." The Texas Caver, Vol. VII, No. 12, pp. 139-142. December, 1962.

Ref: SSS and TSS files

BECK BAT CAVE (GOAT SHELTER)

Williamson County (# 58)

Austin 15' Quadrangle

Owner: E. O. Beck

Description: The cave is entered by a shallow sink with a 4' high, 4' wide artificially enlarged hole at one end. Large trees surround the sink. A talus slope leads into the entrance room, about 20' below the surface. This room is about 50' wide, 40' long, and 10' high. At the end of the room large slabs of breakdown necessitate crawling for about 30' before entering the second room, which is about 15' high and 30'-40' in diameter. At the back of the room formations break up a low passage into two crawlways about 3' high. After about 30' they connect, the passage ending after about 10'. The floor is covered with guano and small breakdown in both rooms and the cave is usually moist. The entrance was enlarged by the owner and supplies placed in it so that it could be used as a fallout shelter. It is rumored that guano from this cave supplied Anderson Mill with nitrates for gunpowder during the Civil War. The cave was first visited by Bob Hudson and others in the early 1950's and has been frequently visited since that time.

Biology: The cave is inhabited by a small colony of bats. Numerous bones are evidence that it is frequented by goats, who use the cave for shelter. A small collection of invertebrates was made by Tom Warden in 1961 or 1962. This included two species of mite and a fungus beetle. On August 24, 1963, James Reddell made a collection of invertebrates. This included two species of spider, Cicurina sp. and Cicurina varians Gertsch & Mulaik, cave crickets, collembola, and a small carabid beetle, Tachys (Tachyura) ferrugineus (Dej.)

Bibliography: Widener, Donald L., ed. Texas Cave Survey, Vol. 1, No. 1, p. 1. Reprinted in Speleo Digest 1958, p. 1-317. Published by Pittsburgh Grotto, N.S.S. May, 1959.

Widener, Donald L., ed. Texas Cave Survey, Vol. 1, No. 4, p. I.

Ref: TSS files

BECK GARDEN CAVE

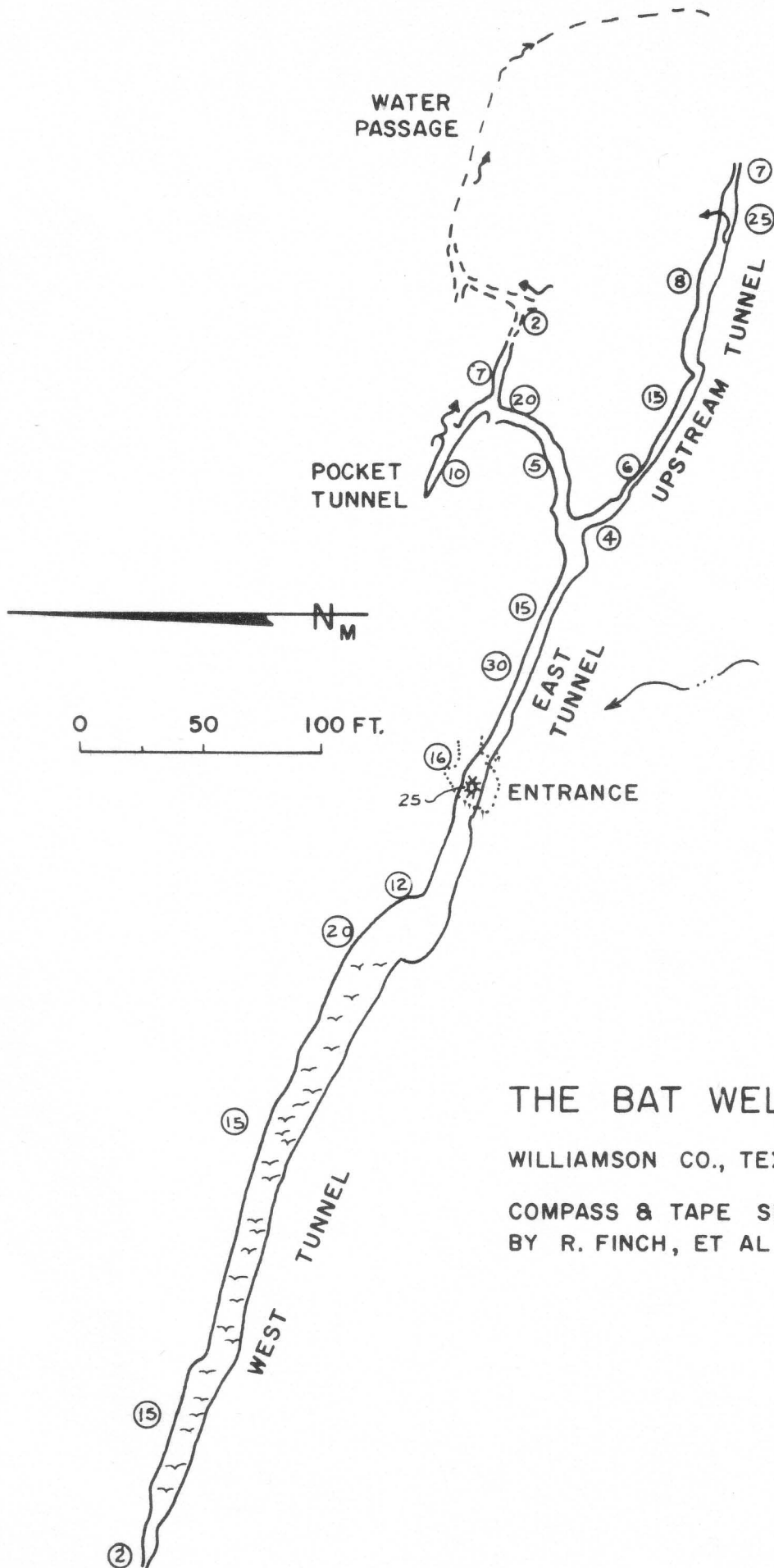
Williamson County (# 59)

Austin 15' Quadrangle

Owner: E. O. Beck

Description: The cave is entered through a small hole with an overburden of about 1.5'. After crawling nearly 10' from the entrance on a piece of breakdown the room ends. To the left there is a hole that doubles back under the large rock you are on and goes to the lower half of the room. This part of the cave can also be entered by going down the right side of the rock. At the lowest point of the room a passage leads for a few feet. Total diameter of the room is about 12'. Explored by Terry Raines and Tommy Phillips in the spring of 1962.

Ref: TSS files



THE BAT WELL

WILLIAMSON CO., TEXAS

COMPASS & TAPE SURVEY
 BY R. FINCH, ET AL

BECK HORSE CAVE

Williamson County (# 60)

Austin 15' Quadrangle

Owner: E. O. Beck

Description: A 6' wide, 3' high entrance opens at one end of a shallow sink near Beck Ranch Cave. A talus slope leads about 15'-20' down into a room about 100' long, 40' wide, and 10' high. Formations along the walls and at the end of the room break it into several alcoves along the side of a main, dirt- and rock-floored room. The skeleton of a horse was found in the entrance room. The cave is inhabited by a few bats and goats use it for shelter.

Bibliography: Widener, Donald L., ed. Texas Cave Survey, Vol. 1, No. 1, p. 1. Reprinted in Speleo Digest 1958, p. 1-317. Published by Pittsburgh Grotto, N.S.S. May, 1959.

Widener, Donald L., ed. Texas Cave Survey, Vol. 1, No. 4, p. I.
Ref: TSS files

BECK RANCH CAVE (BECK TIN CAN CAVE)

Williamson County (# 61)

Austin 15' Quadrangle

Owner: E. O. Beck

Description: A small 12' deep hole in a small creek-bed drops into an east-west passage about 20' wide. To the left this passage extends over large slabs of breakdown as a 3' high passage. After about 50' a double pit about 10' deep leads into a 20' wide, 7'-10' high, breakdown-floored passage extending about 100' to a 15' long, 10' wide formation area. The formations are active and it is necessary to crawl over small travertine dams before the passage again opens up. After about 50' the passage intersects a 25' high, 30' long, 15' wide "room". The main passage extends beyond this room as a 4'-7' high, 20' wide passage floored largely with breakdown. After about 150' it narrows to about 5' and continues as a crawl for 50' before ending. A small pit in the 25' high room leads into a 2'-5' high breakdown- and sand-floored passage about 150' long. From the entrance to the cave a breakdown slope to the right leads down into a 20' wide, 1'-3' high passage extending 100' before dead-ending. Mid-way along this passage a very low, coral- and rock-floored passage extends past two small drops to a narrow 3' high passage to the right. This passage becomes too small after 50'. From the junction with this passage the cave continues as a 1'-3' high, 10'-20' wide passage floored largely with mud. After about 150' the ceiling rises abruptly and a large passage is intersected. To the right it extends 200' with lowering ceiling. To the left the passage widens to 60' to form a room about 100' long and 6'-12' high. At the north end of the room the passage extends as a 20' wide, 3' high passage for 40' where formations are encountered. This formation area extends 20'. From here the cave continues as a 2'-4' high crawl for 200' before the floor drops to allow walking. After 30' a passage to the right leads to a room 50' long, 40' wide, and 5' high. A crystal-clear pool surrounded by white formations makes this the prettiest part of the cave. A low passage from this room ends after about 50'. The main passage extends as a 7'-8' high passage for 50'. To the right a 30' wide, 1' high passage ends after about 50', while to the left it gradually lowers until it becomes too small. The walls of much of the cave, especially near the larger rooms, are covered with a soft, powdery limestone similar to that in Steam Cave. (See map, page 14)

History: Although seldom visited the cave is one of the better known in the county. It was originally reported to the University of Texas Grotto in 1954 by Gerald Seligman. A trip was made to the cave in May 1954 by Clarence Gilmore and other University of Texas Grotto members. A return trip was made to the cave on June 12, 1954, by Holmes A. Semken and other UTG members. Many trips were made to the cave following that, but all entered only the Left-Hand Tunnel. About 1960 James Strickland and other members of the UTG made the first known trip into the Right-Hand Tunnel. At about this time the owner built a dam across the creek to channel flood-water into the cave. Most of the water entering the cave drains into a narrow crevice on the left wall of the entrance room. In 1962 Bob Mitchell of the University of Texas Department of Zoology began a study of the carabid beetle, Agonum (Rhadine) subterraneum. Since that time he has asked that trips not be made to the cave until he can complete his research. The cave was mapped in 1962-1963 by members of the University of Texas Grotto to provide a base map for this research.

Biology: The cave has been of considerable interest biologically, being one of the first caves in the state to receive serious biological attention since the early 1900's. The soft powdery sand covering much of the floor of the cave forms an ideal environment for Rhadine beetles. These inhabit the cave in numbers probably in the thousands. Staphylinid beetles also inhabit the cave in large numbers, where they are found burrowing in the sand. The damp areas of the cave are ideal for millipeds, and the pools attract raccoons whose droppings supply food for millipeds, collembola, and other small arthropods. The cave is the type locality for Speodesmus bicornourus. Another milliped, Cambala captiosa, described from this cave, has since proven to be synonymous with C. speobius. A collection of millipeds and Rhadine beetles was made in the cave by Wayne McAlister and Dave Kyser on December 10, 1955. This was the first collection of Agonum (Rhadine) subterraneum in Texas since Comstock's original collection in McNeil Quarry Cave in the early 1900's. Other collections of invertebrates include one by James Reddell in November, 1962, and one by Bill Russell and Bob Mitchell on March 12, 1963. A faunal list follows:

- Myriapoda
 - Diplopoda
 - Cambala speobius (Chamberlin)
 - Speodesmus bicornourus Causey
- Insecta
 - Orthoptera
 - Ceuthophilus cunicularis Hubbell
 - Collembola
 - Coleoptera
 - Carabidae
 - Agonum (Rhadine) subterraneum (Van Dyke)
 - Tachys (Tachyura) ferrugineus (Dej.)
 - Pselaphidae
 - Batrisodes sp.
 - Staphylinidae
 - Philonthus sp. (Staphylininae)
 - Stilicolina sp. nr. fasta Sand.
- Arachnida
 - Phalangida
 - Araneae
 - Cicurina sp. (blind)

- Bibliography: Barr, Thomas C., Jr. "The Cavernicolous Beetles of the Subgenus Rhadine, Genus Agonum (Coleoptera: Carabidae)." The American Midland Naturalist, Vol. 64, No. 1, p. 59. July, 1960.
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- Nicholas, Brother G. "Checklist of Macroscopic Troglobitic Organisms of the United States." The American Midland Naturalist, Vol. 64, No. 1, pp. 134 and 137. July, 1960.
- Widener, Donald L., ed. Texas Cave Survey, Vol. 1, No. 1, p. 1. Reprinted in Speleo Digest 1958, p. 1-317. Published by Pittsburgh Grotto, N.S.S. May, 1959.
- Widener, Donald L., ed. Texas Cave Survey, Vol. 1, No. 4, p. I.
Ref: TSS files

BECK RATTLESNAKE CAVE

Williamson County (# 62)

Austin 15' Quadrangle

Owner: E. O. Beck

Description: This is a small sinkhole in a dry creek bed with a clump of persimmon bushes surrounding the sink. The cave consists of one room with no passages leading from it. Rattlesnakes are frequently found in the cave.

- Bibliography: Widener, Donald L., ed. Texas Cave Survey, Vol. 1, No. 1, p. 1. Reprinted in Speleo Digest 1958, p. 1-317. Published by Pittsburgh Grotto, N.S.S. May, 1959.
- Widener, Donald L., ed. Texas Cave Survey, Vol. 1, No. 4, p. I.
Ref: TSS files

BECK SEWER CAVE

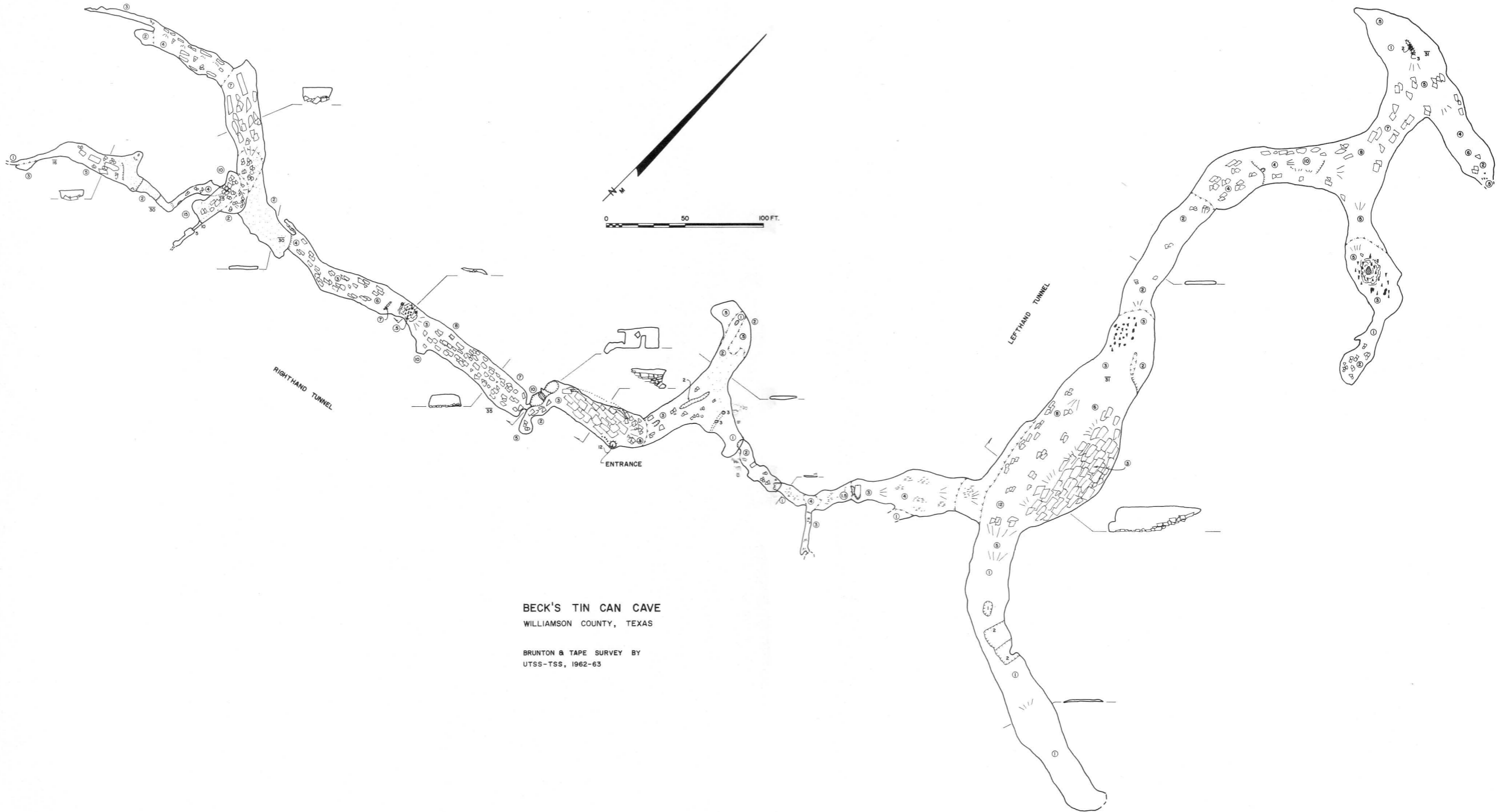
Williamson County (# 63)

Austin 15' Quadrangle

Owner: E. O. Beck

Description: This small cave has been utilized as a sewer and is now permanently sealed.

- Bibliography: Widener, Donald L., ed. Texas Cave Survey, Vol. 1, No. 1, p. 1. Reprinted in Speleo Digest 1958, p. 1-317. Published by Pittsburgh Grotto, N.S.S. May, 1959.
- Widener, Donald L., ed. Texas Cave Survey, Vol. 1, No. 4, p. I.
Ref: TSS files



BECK'S TIN CAN CAVE
 WILLIAMSON COUNTY, TEXAS

BRUNTON & TAPE SURVEY BY
 UTSS-TSS, 1962-63

BLOWING CAVE

-15-
Williamson County (# 7)

Georgetown 30' Quadrangle

Owner: Hubert L. Sullivan

Description: The entrance to the cave is a small hole in solid rock 3' in diameter. This drops about 20' to the main level of the cave. A hole in the floor almost directly below the entrance drops an additional 20'-30' into a small breakdown-floored room. At the main level of the cave, passages extend in two directions. To the right it extends as a 10'-15' wide passage over flat slabs of breakdown for about 60', while to the left it extends about 40' before ending.

Meteorology: A trip to the cave on March 20, 1959, found air blowing from the cave at an estimated velocity of 8' per second. It was strong enough to flow out a $\frac{1}{4}$ x 2 x 4 inch block of wood dropped into the sink. "This air must have come from the expansion of the air in the cave as very little wind was blowing on the surface. The most obvious cause of expansion is a change in atmospheric pressure. After exploring the cave and finding that the air was filtering up through breakdown, we returned to Austin and found that the atmospheric pressure had dropped .04 of an inch during the hour we had watched the air flow from the cave." (Russell, 1959) Attempts to calculate the volume of air space necessary to permit this fast flow of air failed. A trip to the cave on March 24, 1963, found no air movement from the cave entrance.

Biology: Cave crickets, Ceuthophilus conicaudus Hubbell, and collembola were collected in the cave by James Reddell on March 24, 1963. Raccoons frequent the cave, as is evidenced by numerous droppings on the cave's main level.

Bibliography: Russell, Bill. "Mystery of Blowing Cave." The Texas Caver, Vol. IV, No. 2, p. 12. Mar.-Apr. 1959.

Ref: TSS files

BONE CAVE

Williamson County (# 32)

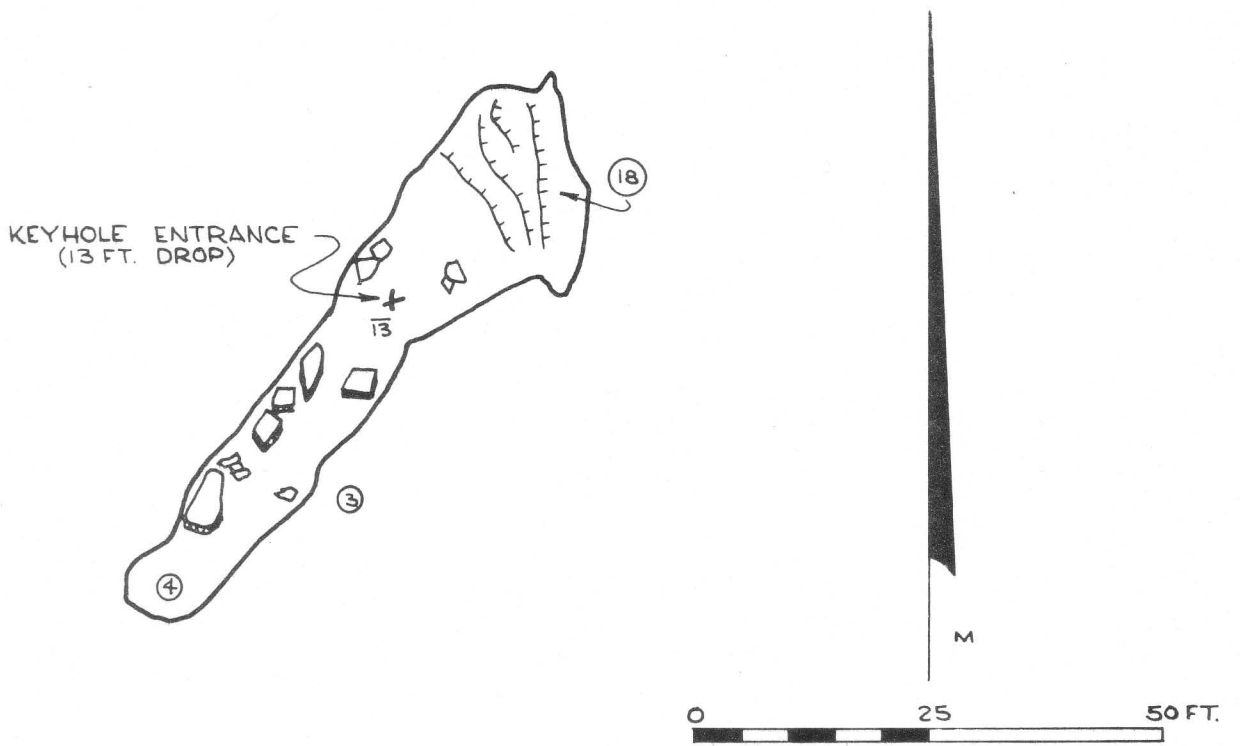
Round Rock 15' Quadrangle

Owner: "Doc" Weir

Description: The entrance is a keyhole about 2' x 1' opening into the roof of the cave's one large room. A 13' drop leads to a talus slope which drops 10' to the larger end of the room. This room is about 35' long and runs northwest. From the southeast end the room extends as a reasonably wide tunnel for about 40' before dead-ending. The floor of the main room is covered with small rocks and many goat bones. The crawl is floored with large slabs of breakdown. The cave is quite warm, the temperature at the end of the room being about 81° F on August 4, 1963. It was mapped in May 1963 by members of the Southwestern Speleological Society. (See map, page 16)

Biology: A collection of invertebrates was made on August 4, 1963, by James Reddell. Besides those animals collected centipedes, harvestmen, cave crickets, and a carabid beetle, Tachys (Tachyura), were observed. The animals collected included millipeds: Speodesmus bicornourus Causey, Cambala speobius (Chamberlin), and an immature Paraiulidae; collembola; cave phalangids; and spiders: Cicurina sp. (blind), and Cicurina sp. (eyed).

Ref: SSS and TSS files



BONE CAVE

WILLIAMSON CO., TEXAS

COMPASS & TAPE SURVEY BY
D. ANDERSON & R. FINCH, 5-21-63
SSS

BOTTLE-NECK CAVE

Williamson County (# 64)

Lake Travis 15' Quadrangle

Owner:

Description: The cave is a 15' deep bottle-shaped cave floored with mud.

Ref: T. B. Warden

BOY SCOUTS' CAVE

Williamson County (# 44)

Round Rock 15' Quadrangle

Owner:

Description: This is a small 40' long crawlway in the cliffs along the east bank of the South San Gabriel River. It has an entrance at each end and is frequented by goats, sheeps, and boy scouts.

Ref: SSS files

BUZZARD CAVE (COON CAVE)

Williamson County (# 41)

Round Rock 15' Quadrangle

Owner: "Doc" Weir

Description: This is a one room cave containing numerous formations, some several feet long, but most dead. Total length of the cave is 90' and it is about 12' deep. Bats inhabit the cave at times, and skunks and coons are occasionally seen in it.

Ref: SSS files

CAT CAVE

Williamson County (# 9)

Round Rock 15' Quadrangle

Owner:

Description: A shallow sink drops into a low room about 4' high in the center and tapering toward the walls. Along the west side of this room a crack between a breakdown slab and the wall might lead to an extension of the cave, but chipping would be necessary to enter the hole.

Ref: TSS files

CAVITT'S CATASTROPHE

Williamson County (# 15)

Round Rock 15' Quadrangle

Owner: Sheridan Cavitt

Description: This small cliff-cave was partially excavated by the Southwestern Speleological Society in the spring of 1963. It was, and partially still is, filled with loose silt, believed to have been deposited in the record high San Gabriel floods of 1921 and 1957. Beneath this layer of silt, which is up to 2' deep, in a second layer of dirt were found a few arrowheads and unidentified bones. Soot on the roof of the cave indicates that it was used by Indians, and it overlooks a small creek and nearby Indian mounds. It is a crawlway extending about 40' in an easterly direction. At this point excavation was halted.

Ref: SSS files

THE CHIMNEY

-18-
Williamson County (# 17)

Round Rock 15' Quadrangle

Owner:

Description: This is a 20' deep chimney-like fissure with a small 30' long crawlway extending from the bottom.

Ref: SSS files

CHINABERRY CAVE (BAT CAVE) (PIETSCH'S FOLLY) (FOX CAVE) (BOOT CAVE)
Williamson County (# 35)

Round Rock 15' Quadrangle

Owner: Dr. W. W. Laubach

Description: The main entrance to the cave is a collapse sinkhole dropping vertically about 15' and being about 60' long and 40' wide with large chinaberry trees growing from it. A small 7' deep hole about 40' away is that most commonly used to enter the cave. It drops to a large pile of rocks placed to facilitate entry into the cave. The main tunnel of the cave is 20' wide, 11' high, and runs southeast for 80' before forking. The right branch extends southward for about 90' where it narrows to 2', extends about 20', and fills with silt. About 20' before it narrows a passage at ceiling level extends as a 1'-3' high crawl for about 120'. This passage contains the prettiest formations in the cave, a narrow line of small columns along the right wall. At the end of the passage a steep slope leads down into a 40' long, 20' wide, 1' high, silt-floored "room." The passage to the left extends as a 15' wide, 8' high, breakdown-floored passage for about 30'. At this point it lowers to 2' and extends up a slope for about 30', issuing into one end of a long, passage-like collapse sink. From the main entrance a small hole to the north leads into a 40' long passage where it becomes a maze-like area of several 2'-3' high passages, all connecting after about 50' in a room about 40' in diameter and 6' high. At one side of the room a round solution sink has formed about 15' deep. A passage to the northwest from this sink ends after about 20'. The cave is frequently rumored to be connected to nearby Steam Cave, but this is almost unquestionably false. The shaft entrance is sometimes called Boot Cave, while the crawlway entrance is sometimes called Fox Cave. (See map, page 20)

History: One of the best known and most visited caves in the state, dates on the walls extend back to the 1870's. Cave crickets, probably collected in this cave, were described by Scudder in 1894. The cave is there described as "a bat cave 48 x 20 ft. in size, of which the roof had fallen in." Although no longer as well known as Steam Cave, it at one time appears to have been the better known of the two, primarily because of a large supply of guano which was mined for a short time. In recent years most trips to the cave have been made as adjuncts to trips to Steam Cave. It is frequently visited by members of the University of Texas Grotto and the Southwestern Speleological Society. It was mapped by James Reddell, Terry Raines, Lynn Roe, and Marianne Hernandez of the University of Texas Grotto on October 7 and 9, 1962.

Biology: At one time it appears to have been inhabited by a large bat colony, but this has largely disappeared and now only a few hundred bats are ever found in the cave. The cave is fairly dry and few truly cave-adapted forms will probably ever be found in it. Those that do appear have little chance of survival. Frogs,

toads, lizards, rattlesnakes, raccoons, and probably a number of other vertebrates are occasional inhabitants of the entrance areas of the cave. Many epigeal invertebrates inhabit the main entrance sink. A small collection of invertebrates was made by James Reddell on October 7, 1962. At that time the following species were found: a spider, Cicurina sp.; a collembolan, Pseudosinella petterseni Borner; a blind beetle, Agonum (Rhadine) sp.; and cave crickets, Ceuthophilus secretus Scudder. An epigeal milliped, Aniulus sp., was found near the main entrance by James Reddell on April 9, 1963. Also reported in the cave is Ceuthophilus conicaudus Hubbell, collected along with C. secretus by Scudder in 1894.

- Bibliography: Anonymous. "News: Southwestern Univ." The Texas Caver, Vol. VII, No. 10, p. 123. October 1962.
- Hubbell, Theodore Huntington. A Monographic Revision of the Genus Ceuthophilus, pp. 258-259 and 265. University of Florida Publication: Biological Science Series, Vol. II, No. 1. February, 1936.
- Scudder, Samuel H. "The North American Ceuthophili." Proceedings of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Vol. 30, p. 41. 1894.
- White, Patrick J. "Caves of Central Texas." The Caves of Texas, pp. 62-63. Bulletin Ten of the National Speleological Society. April, 1948.
- Widener, Donald L., ed. Texas Cave Survey, Vol. 1, No. 1, p. 1. Reprinted in Speleo Digest 1958, p. 1-316. Published by Pittsburgh Grotto, N.S.S. May, 1959.
- Ref: SSS and TSS files

CIRCLE CAVE

Williamson County (# 31)

Round Rock 15' Quadrangle

Owner: "Doc" Weir

Description: The entrance to the cave is a shallow collapse sinkhole about 15' in diameter and 5' deep. It was formed by the collapse of a fairly low, shallow room. Several crawls lead out, all interconnecting to form a circle about the sink. There is one medium-sized room with a few formations. A ring of rocks encircling the sink are the remains of a play fort built by local children. A rattlesnake was observed in the entrance in the summer of 1963 by James Reddell.

Ref: SSS and TSS files

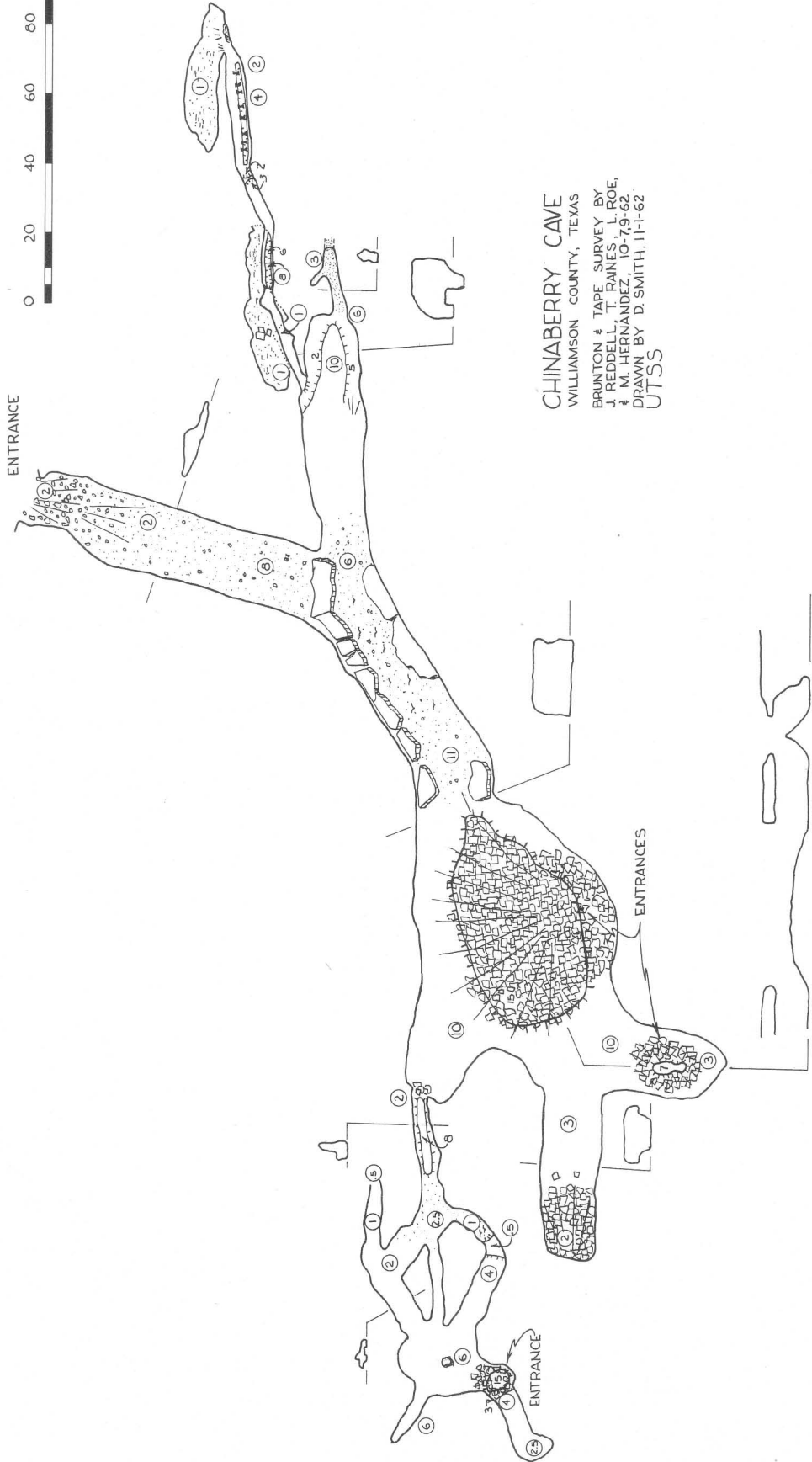
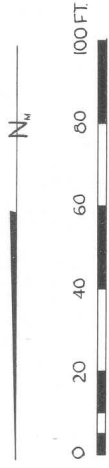
COBB CAVERNS

Williamson County (# 6)

Georgetown 30' Quadrangle

Owner: Marvin Edwards; lessee: Jack and Eugene Marx

Description: The original entrance to this commercial cave was a narrow crack dropping about 30' to the floor of the cave. The cave is now entered by a set of stairs leading to the east. It is possible to squeeze through the stairs and enter a passage to the west, now largely blocked by rubble from the enlargement of the entrance. This passage extends a total of about 600' as a very straight passage with one slight offset. Mostly walking passage, flowstone and formations have so built up near the end as to necessitate crawling for about 100'. Many formations, including columns, stalactites, and draperies, are found in this very attractive passage. The floor of the passage, as throughout the cave, when not of flowstone, is of a red clay. A dome about 150' from the cave entrance and containing the remains of an ancient rope reaches to a short upper level. From the entrance the commercial trail extends about 950' to the east. There are



CHINABERRY CAVE
 WILLIAMSON COUNTY, TEXAS
 BRUNTON & TAPE SURVEY BY
 J. REDDELL, T. RAINES, L. ROE,
 & M. HERNANDEZ, 10-7-62
 DRAWN BY D. SMITH, 11-1-62
UTSS

several stalactites and stalagmites for the first 50', followed by a 12' high, 20' wide flat-floored passage extending 100' to a large mound of flowstone on the right. The trail circles this mound to enter a 25' high portion of the passage. After 75' a jog to the right forms a room containing breakdown and formations and is known as the Chime Room. From here the cave continues to the Totem Pole Room, a 20' wide, 25' high portion of the passage, heavily decorated with beautifully-formed totem poles and other formations. On the right wall a dome has been artificially opened to the surface to form a second entrance. Beyond the Totem Pole Room a type of box-work has formed along the walls leaving a book-shelf like appearance and this part of the passage is known as the Library. From here the cave narrows and the ceiling lowers to form Lover's Walk, a 75' long passage leading to the Cathedral Room, a highly decorated area. About 100' beyond the Cathedral Room the ceiling rises to 25' and the Frozen Waterfall covers the left wall in a beautiful cascade of vari-colored flowstone. The commercial tour ends about 100' beyond this formation. From the end of the trail a 6' high, 10' wide passage leads over a floor of mud and old guano into a breakdown-floored room about 25' in diameter. From this room it is possible to either climb into a low passage near the ceiling or over breakdown on the right and then up a steep slope. Both lead to a $\frac{1}{2}$ '-1' high, 20' wide very damp passage about 75' long. This opens to a crawl which leads a few feet to a 15' drop which may be climbed. One of the prettier parts of the cave, a 50' long area of columns and draperies leads to an area of large breakdown blocks covering the floor. Several large tilted or fallen formations lie over the breakdown. A slope at the end of this passage leads to a dome which, in turn, leads to a surface sink, excavated on November 2, 1962, by members of the Southwestern Speleological Society. Just past the dome an 8' drop leads into a 30' long, 15' wide, muddy passage ending in breakdown. A 20' high dome at the end of the room probably connects to a surface sink. The entire cave appears to be formed along one prominent joint striking almost due east-west. (See map, page 23)

History: The cave was reported in 1948 in Bulletin Ten of the NSS. Rumors of an extensive area of the cave sealed by a Negro blasting in search of gold and thereby sealing off the larger part of the cave are probably false. The cave was visited in 1958 by Dave Kyser and other members of the University of Texas Grotto. Later explorations have been made by the University of Texas Grotto, Abilene Grotto, and Southwestern Speleological Society. The cave was mapped in 1962-1963 by members of the University of Texas Grotto. It was commercially opened in June, 1962. At present no explorations may be made off of the commercial trail because of insurance difficulties.

Biology: The cave once contained a small colony of bats as is evidenced by very sticky old guano at the end of the commercial trail, but there are none in the cave now. It is inhabited by one troglobitic beetle, Agonum (Rhadine) sp.; two blind millipeds, Speodesmus bicornourus Causey and Cambala speobius (Chamberlin); a blind collembolan, Pseudosinella argentea (Folsom); two blind spiders, Cicurina sp. and Leptoneta sp. A troglophilic beetle, Tachys (Tachyura) ferrugineus (Dej.), was found on rotting rope in the cave; and a troglophilic spider, Cicurina varians Gertsch & Mulaik, is fairly common in the cave. Three species of cave cricket have been collected and identified as Ceuthophilus conicaudus Hubbell, Ceuthophilus cunicularis Hubbell, and Ceuthophilus secretus Scudder. An epigeal millipede, Gosiulus aethes (Chamberlin), found at the sink entrance, is to be considered as having accidentally entered the cave.

Bibliography: Anonymous. "News: Southwestern Univ." The Texas Caver, Vol. VII, No. 5, p. 73. May, 1962.
 Anonymous. "News: Southwestern Univ." The Texas Caver, Vol. VII, No. 11, p. 132. November, 1962.
 Anonymous. "News: Southwestern Univ." The Texas Caver, Vol. VIII, No. 1, p. 7. January, 1963.

- Anonymous. "News: University of Texas." The Texas Caver, Vol. VII, No. 7, p. 91. July, 1962.
- Finch, Richard. "SSS Activities." The Texas Caver, Vol. VII, No. 10, p. 121. October, 1962.
- Russell, Bill. "Mystery of Blowing Cave." The Texas Caver, Vol. IV, No. 2, p. 12. Mar.-Apr., 1959.
- White, Patrick J. "The Caves of Central Texas." The Caves of Texas, p. 63. Bulletin Ten of the National Speleological Society. April, 1948.
- Widener, Donald L., ed. Texas Cave Survey, Vol. 1, No. 1, pp. 1-2. Reprinted in Speleo Digest 1958, p. 1-316. Published by Pittsburgh Grotto, N.S.S. May, 1959.
- Ref: SSS and TSS files

COFFIN CAVE

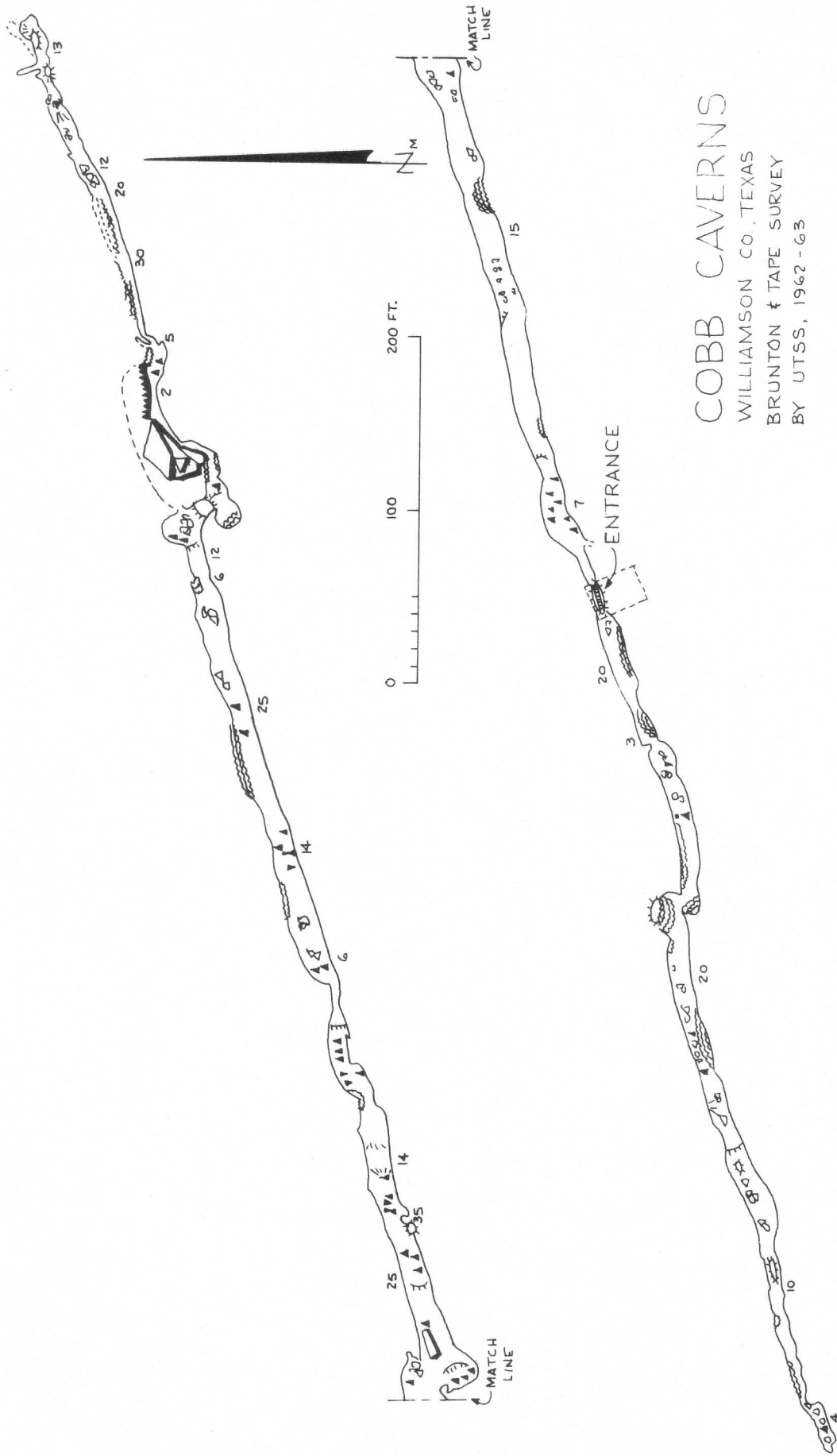
Williamson County (# 8)

Georgetown 30' Quadrangle

Owner: Marvin Andres

Description: The entrance is a shaft formed along a vertical joint in rather thin-bedded limestone and resembling a coffin in shape. At the bottom of the 49' unclimbable entrance the cave forms a room about 20' wide, 40' long, and 4'-8' high. A passage from this room extends to the south about 20' where it intersects two passages. That to the southwest extends after about 20' of crawl into the Breakdown Room, which is about 30' in diameter and 12' high. A 3' high, 15' wide passage extends from this room for about 200'. A room to the right just past the Breakdown Room is known as the Coon Room, because of the frequent visits by coons who seek water in a lower level pool. From the junction of the two passages a crawl leads to another junction. To the right it extends as a flat, 1'-2' high, 20' wide crawl for about 75' before becoming too small, while that to the left or north extends as a 4'-8' high, 10' wide passage for about 75' where it intersects a 12' high, 20' wide, 40' long "room". A walking passage leads for 50' to the Gone Room, a 3' high irregular-shaped room distinguished by a peculiar grape-like erosion formation in the center of the room. A passage from this room to the right leads to the Big Room, a circular 10' high, 25' in diameter room. A short passage from this room leads to the New Room, which is about 13' high and 10' in diameter. From the Gone Room a sharp constriction in the passage occurs, immediately opening into an irregular-shaped room from which three passages lead. To the west, two passages extend about 20' before dead-ending, while to the north a crawlway extends about 75' before becoming too small. A strong breeze may be felt in parts of the cave, indicating other connections which have thus far eluded discovery. Total depth of the cave is about 60', making it one of the deepest in the county, and total length is in excess of 700'. It was mapped in May, 1963, by H. DeWolfe, T. Dillon, and R. Shepperd of the Southwestern Speleological Society. (See map, page 24)

- Bibliography: Anonymous. "News: Southwestern University." The Texas Caver, Vol. VIII, No. 6, p. 64. June, 1963.
- Widener, Donald L., ed. Texas Cave Survey, Vol. 1, No. 1, p. 2. Reprinted in Speleo Digest 1958, p. 1-316. Published by Pittsburgh Grotto, N.S.S. May, 1959.
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- Ref: SSS files

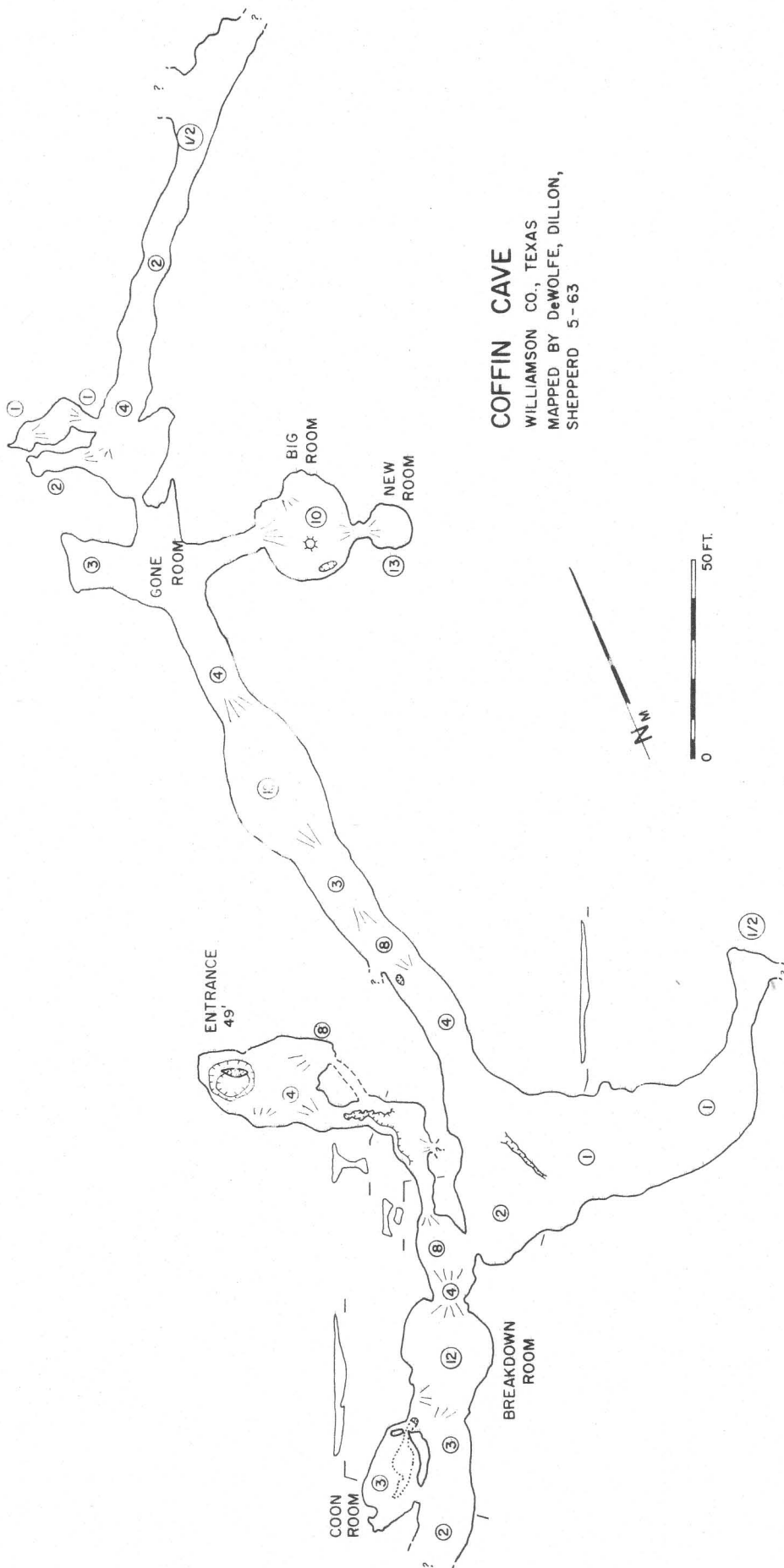


COBB CAVERNS

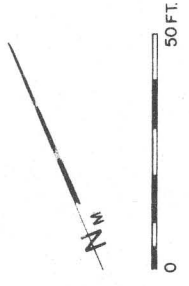
WILLIAMSON CO., TEXAS

BRUNTON TAPE SURVEY

BY UTSS, 1962-63



COFFIN CAVE
 WILLIAMSON CO., TEXAS
 MAPPED BY DeWOLFE, DILLON,
 SHEPPERD 5-63



CRICKET CAVE

Williamson County (# 2)

Georgetown 30' Quadrangle

Owner:

Description: The entrance is a small sink about 3' in diameter dropping 10' to a 20' breakdown slope leading into one end of a fair-sized room. The room is about 50' long, 20' wide, and 15' high and is floored with breakdown. About 50' from the entrance two levels are formed, an upper level floored with flowstone and a lower one extending over large boulders. Both extend about 20' before ending.

Biology: On August 24, 1963, James Reddell and Bill Russell made a collection of invertebrates. This material included a blind milliped, Cambala speobius (Chamberlin); troglophilic beetles, Tachys (Tachyura) ferrugineus (Dej.) and Batrisodes sp.; spiders, Meioneta sp. and Cicurina varians Gertsch & Mulaik; collembola; staphylinid beetles; and cave crickets.

Ref: TSS files

CRUMLY'S CAVE

Williamson County (# 55)

Georgetown 30' Quadrangle

Owner: Dick Boatwright

Description: The entrance to the cave has now been filled, but reportedly was a sink dropping into a low, wide passage, largely floored with silt. Located in the bed of a shallow draw, much water ran into the cave, which was locally reported to be fairly long. It was explored for a short distance by T. B. Warden of the Balcones Grotto.

Ref: T. B. Warden

CRYSTAL CAVE

Williamson County (# 56)

Round Rock 15' Quadrangle

Owner: Fred Vinther

Description: "Some years ago there were two openings, about 50 feet apart. One was 2 x 3 feet; the other about 3 feet in diameter, at the bottom of a large sink. Heavy rains had washed much dirt into these openings before the landowner filled the mouths with rocks. The cave could be entered by removing the rocks and excavating a quantity of dirt fill." (White, 1948)

Bibliography: White, Patrick J. "Caves of Central Texas." The Caves of Texas, p. 63. Bulletin Ten of the National Speleological Society. April, 1948.
Widener, Donald L., ed. Texas Cave Survey, Vol. 1, No. 1, p. 2.

Ref: TSS files

CRYSTAL SIXTY

Williamson County (# 39)

Round Rock 15' Quadrangle

Owner: Texas Crushed Stone Co.

Description: The entrance to the cave was opened during blasting by the Texas Crushed Stone Co. in their quarry south of Georgetown. The cave consisted of two levels, an upper walking passage about 90' long, and a lower, highly decorated, passage. The upper level contained large blunt, powdery stalagmites and only a few short stalactites along the sides of the tunnel. After a drop of about six or eight feet the lower level was entered through an easy squeeze. This section of the cave was quite live, with pools of water several inches deep in places and all formations glistening with moisture. It was profusely decorated with highly crystalline, very pure calcite speleothems. "One section of the floor of this room was completely covered with Mayfield type coralloids six inches or more in height. Great destruction of these coralloids was unavoidable in crossing this area. The ceiling was heavily hung with soda straws, as throughout the entire lower level... When broken (and everything touched was likely to break) they were found to be full of water. These soda straws averaged around 8 inches, but at least a dozen were collected exceeding two feet in length and some near 30 inches. In addition to the soda straws and cave coral there were larger columns up to four inches in diameter and six feet tall, still of the pure/crystalline form of calcite. Also there were in many places some small helictites and several war club type of stalactites somewhat like those of Mayfield. On the floor, wherever coralloids and columns were absent, flowstone took over, and there were some colors ranged from brown through buff, orange, cream, and snow white. Many formations were translucent, and where thin enough, quite transparent. Two rather unusual formations were found in this cave: One, called the King's Scepter, is a 23-inch tall stalagmite found growing in the midst of a thick patch of coral. Beautifully formed, it is 6/8-inch wide at the base, continues up seven inches with almost no change, then there is a knobby thickening, after which the diameter shrinks to 3/4-inch and continues evenly until it terminates in a rounded swelling not unlike the ball of a king's scepter. This top is wider by one & 3/8 inch than the base, making the formation a sort of miniature totem pole. It is pure white. The second formation of particular note is a brown stalagmite, long and almost perfect in form: it is 33 inches long and one and 3/16 inches in diameter throughout its entire length. What makes both of these speleothems unusually interesting is the presence of a central canal found supposedly only in stalactites. The central tube of the King's Scepter seems to run the entire length of the formation, but is sealed off by the bulbous end. That of the brown stalagmite however is clear all the way through, and except for a slight bend in the formation, one would be able to see all the way down it. Along the side of this speleothem and near the top is a portion of a tube or soda straw partially built into the larger stalagmite. Apparently these phenomena were caused by the partial destruction of soda straws which once spanned from ceiling to floor (as some were found to do in portions of the cave). These remarkable stubs left standing, rather than hanging, were then coated with successive layers of crystal. Stubs of soda straws found rising from the floor of Crystal Sixty-Three seem to confirm this theory." (Finch, 1963) After the visit by Richard Finch, Dr. Gordon Wolcott, and Laura Weir further blasting in the quarry partially closed the cave. It remained open for about a week during which time a number of University of Texas Grotto cavers and some geologists and rockhounds from Waco and Burnet visited and collected in the cave. It has since been completely destroyed.

Bibliography: Finch, Richard. "Crystal Sixty." The Texas Caver, Vol. VIII, No. 7, pp. 69-70. July, 1963.

Ref: SSS files

CRYSTAL SIXTY-THREE

Williamson County (# 40)

Round Rock 15' Quadrangle

Owner: Texas Crushed Stone Co.

Description: This cave was opened by blasting in the Texas Crushed Stone Co. quarry south of Georgetown. It was discovered on May 21, 1963, by Rex Shepperd, Russell Ramsey, and Tom Dillon of the Southwestern Speleological Society. After seeing that it was a beautiful cave and to be immediately destroyed they returned to Georgetown and returned with Mike Lorfing, Richard Finch, Paul Earls, and David Anderson to adequately photograph the cave and to collect the soon to be destroyed formations, thereby preserving what they could of the cave's beauty. The cave was longer and with a greater abundance of helictites than Crystal Sixty, the helictites ranging from transparent through opaque rust-brown and yellow. "This cave also had many large beautiful bacon-rind draperies, and some columns, though these were smaller. There were two totem pole stalagmites over five feet high, and about an inch in diameter, covered with encrustations of dog-tooth spar. One peculiar phenomenon in many sections of the cave was a calcite sheet about 3/8 inch thick completely covering the ceiling with stalactites growing off it in quantity. In our collection we were able to get several sections of this about one-foot square. These had been shaken from the ceiling in sections with stalactites and draperies in profusion. Another interesting sight was the soda straw columns which had been broken off, perhaps during blasting. This gave the appearance of soda straws growing up from the floor as stalagmitic depositions... A peculiar form of breakdown was noticed. Apparently the ceiling was of thin-bedded limestone which at one time fell in huge slabs, which upon landing, then shattered into a sort of giant jig-saw puzzle. The pieces all remained perfectly in place, to be later cemented in position by dripstone." (Dillon, 1963) The total length of the cave was about one-hundred yards.

Bibliography: Anonymous. "News: Southwestern University." The Texas Caver, Vol. VIII, No. 6, p. 64. June, 1963.

Dillon, Tom. "Crystal Sixty-Three." The Texas Caver, Vol. VIII, No. 7, pp. 70-71.

Ref: SSS files

THE DEVIL'S WISHING WELL

Williamson County (# 33)

Round Rock 15' Quadrangle

Owner: "Doc" Weir

Description: The entrance is a small sink sloping steeply for 4' before meeting a 23' vertical shaft, which bells out to 8' in diameter and then closes back slightly. The cave contains no formations and no side passages. It was discovered and excavated by Richard Finch, Mike Weir, and Don Todd several years ago, but has since been re-covered to prevent livestock falling in.

Ref: SSS files

ELM CAVE

-28-
Williamson County (# 53)

Round Rock 15' Quadrangle

Owner: Walsh Ranch

Description: The entrance to the cave is a small sink a few feet in diameter surrounded by elm trees. From the bottom of the sink a breakdown slope extends into a room about 30' long, 1'-4' high, and 10' wide, floored with breakdown. To the left side of the sink a short crawl leads to a dead-end and at the back of the room a low crawl extends about 10' to an end.

Biology: A collection of invertebrates was made on August 24, 1963, by James Reddell and Bill Russell. Material collected included a blind milliped, Cambala speobius (Chamberlin); spiders, Achaearanea porteri Banks and Cicurina varians Gertsch & Mulaik; a troglophilic beetle, Tachys (Tachyura) ferrugineus (Dej.); phalangids (both the common harvestmen and a blind species); collembola; staphylinid beetles; and centipedes. A rattlesnake was killed in the entrance sink on the above date.

Ref: TSS files

ELM BAT CAVE

Williamson County (# 1)

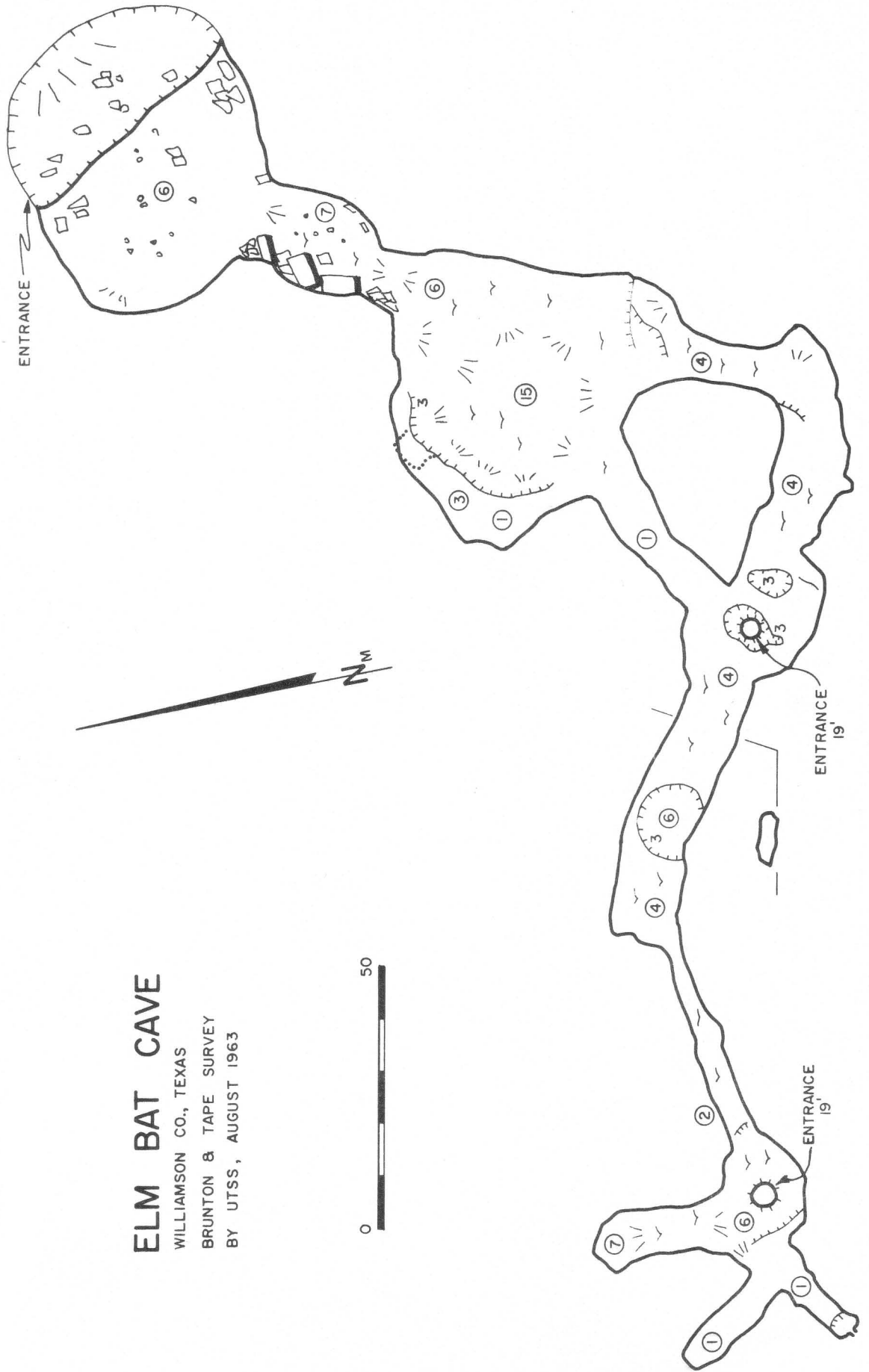
Georgetown 30' Quadrangle

Owner:

Description: The entrance to the cave is a 30' in diameter sink surrounded by a fence and grove of trees. A breakdown slope on one side of the sink leads into a flat-floored shelter-type room from which a passage extends for a short distance into a room about 40' in diameter. The floor of the room lies about 15' below the main level of the cave. This room is inhabited by a colony of bats as indicated by much spongy guano on the floor. Straight ahead a small hole leads to a shaft entrance, which may also be reached by a crawl on the left-side of the room. From this entrance a crawl leads to a small room from which the crawl continues about 100' to a second shaft entrance about 3' in diameter and 20' deep. Two crawls extend from this room, the one to the right extending about 40' to a dead-end, while that straight ahead leads over breakdown for about 75'. A crawl about 5' wide and 1' high extends over thin slabs of breakdown for about 30' before ending. Total length of the cave is about 600'. Although well-known locally the cave has seldom been visited by cavers. It was first visited by Bill Russell and other members of the University of Texas Grotto in 1957 or 1958. It was mapped on August 24, 1963, by James Reddell, Bill Russell, and other members of the University of Texas Grotto. (See map, page 29)

Biology: The cave is inhabited by a fair-sized colony of bats. A small collection of invertebrates was made on August 24, 1963, by James Reddell and Bill Russell. Two troglophilic spiders, Cicurina varians Gertsch & Mulaik and Achaearanea porteri Banks, are known from the cave. An accidentally occurring milliped, Abacion sp., was found half-way down one of the shafts. Other, as yet unstudied, fauna includes cave crickets, collembola, and a small black beetle found in large numbers in the guano.

Ref: TSS files



ELM BAT CAVE

WILLIAMSON CO., TEXAS
 BRUNTON & TAPE SURVEY
 BY UTSS, AUGUST 1963



ELM-OAK SINK (ARMADILLO CAVE)

Williamson County (# 25)

Georgetown 30' Quadrangle

Owner:

Description: A shallow grassy sink in a small grove of elm and oak trees gives this cave its name. The entrance to the cave lies at the south end of the sink and extends about 50' as a crawl among dead formations. Total depth of the cave is about 5'-10'. Baby armadillos were seen near the entrance.

Ref: SSS and TSS files

ELM WATER CAVE (STREAM CAVE) (WHITLEY RANCH CAVE?)

Williamson County (# 4)

Georgetown 30' Quadrangle

Owner:

Description: The cave is entered by a 4' wide, 6' long crevice about 20' deep. This drops into a very straight, joint-controlled passage, which to the east extends about 50'. The floor is of gravel with a rapidly flowing stream a few inches beneath the gravel. At the end of the passage the stream runs over a 10' waterfall and sinks in gravel. Much debris has accumulated above the waterfall making it difficult to negotiate. The stream re-appears as a spring about 1/4 mile east of the entrance. Upstream the cave extends as a 10' high passage, the bottom 3'-5' of which are covered with water. After about 100' the stream comes from beneath a ledge. A mud-floored crawl about 3' wide and 1' high extends to the right for at least 30' before becoming too filled with silt to negotiate. A little digging would permit further exploration as it appears to open up after about 5'. At one time the cave was used as a well and a headless windmill still stands above the entrance. First reported as Stream Cave by Bob Hudson, this cave was visited about 1956 or 1957 by Bill Russell and other members of the University of Texas Grotto. The cave was visited on August 24, 1963, by James Reddell, Bill Russell, and other members of the University of Texas Grotto.

Biology: The cave at times contains crayfish and small fish, but when a collection of invertebrates was made on August 24, 1963, by James Reddell and Bill Russell none were found. Several skinks and frogs were seen at the bottom of the entrance drop. Asellid isopods and epigean planaria were found in large numbers beneath gravel at the bottom of the entrance drop and several epigean beetles were found in the entrance area. A blind milliped, Cambala speobius (Chamberlin), and blind thysanura were collected. Also collected were a scorpion, Centruroides vittatus Say; spiders, Nesticus sp., Cicurina varians Gertsch & Mulaik, Dictyna sp., and Pellenes sp.; centipedes; collembola; cave crickets; ants; staphylinid beetles; and a troglophilic carabid beetle, Tachys (Tachyura) ferrugineus (Dej.).

Ref: TSS files

FENCE-LINE SINK

Williamson County (# 38)

Round Rock 15' Quadrangle

Owner: Dr. W.W. Laubach

Description: The entrance to the cave consists of two holes along the west side of a 5' deep, 20' in diameter collapse sink just southeast of Steam Cave. The northernmost crawl extends as a 3'-5' wide, 3' high passage among formations for about 50' before becoming too small. It is possible to crawl around the breakdown from the entrance sink and reach the other crawl, which also quickly ends.

Ref: TSS files

FOUR CORNERS CAVE (CALUETT'S HOLE)

-31-
Williamson County (# 27)

Round Rock 15' Quadrangle

Owner: Mrs. Sam Harris; lessee: R. D. Fletcher

Description: The entrance to the cave is a 10' wide, 4' high hole on the west side of a shallow sink. A talus slope leads down into a 10' high, 60' long, 25' wide room running southwest-northeast. To the right a slope leads up to a 2' high, 5' wide passage which dead-ends after about 50'. To the left a 4' drop leads into a 5' high, silt-floored passage about 60' long. Near the end of the passage the ceiling is about 7' high. A few feet from the end the ceiling drops to 3', but a rise leads to a 10' long, 4' high, 5' wide alcove. A 4' deep pit in the floor just before the passage end leads to a passage too small to negotiate. On the northwest side of the entrance room a steeply sloping passage leads to several short drops. This passage is about 4'-6' high and widens to about 25' near the bottom, therefore forming a steeply sloping room floored with breakdown and guano. A 2' high passage to the left at the bottom goes nowhere. The total length of the cave is about 300' and the total depth about 35'. It was mapped on March 7, 1962, by Merydith Turner, Terry Raines, and Tom Warden of the University of Texas Grotto. (See map, page 32)

Biology: A small colony of bats inhabits the cave. A collection of invertebrates was made by James Reddell on March 24, 1963. This hasty investigation found two blind millipeds, Cambala speobius (Chamberlin) and Speodesmus bicornourus Causey; a blind beetle, Agonum (Rhadine) sp.; collembola; cave crickets, Ceuthophilus secretus Scudder; and a spider, Cicurina varians Gertsch & Mulaik.

Ref: SSS and TSS files

FOUR-MILE CAVE

Williamson County (# 20)

Georgetown 30' Quadrangle

Owner: Texas Highway Department

Description: The entrance to this filled cave was a 3' high opening beneath a 1' thick shelf of limestone. A talus slope leads down to a single chamber 14' high at the highest point. From the entrance to the end of the room is a distance of about 80'. Width of the room ranges from about 20' just inside the entrance to 60' at the widest point. The entrance slope, about 50' long, is floored with small breakdown, while the flat floor of the room is covered with silt. A few small formations are found at the back of the room. Small crawls along the side of the breakdown slope lead back 20-30' towards the entrance. The crawl on the left side of the slope drops into a narrow crack but goes nowhere. (See map, page 34)

History: The cave, located on highway right-of-way, is one of the best known in the area. During the 1920's the floor of the cave was levelled, liquor was stored in it, and the younger people of Georgetown and Jarrell held rendezvous there to dance and drink. Reportedly wild orgies brought about an attempt to seal the cave with concrete, but it was promptly re-opened and continued to be used until the repeal of prohibition. When the Burnet Highway was being constructed the cave was used by the highway crew for storage of dynamite. A rough map of the cave was made by James Reddell and other members of the University of Texas Grotto in 1962. The cave was filled by the highway department in the spring of 1963 for reasons unknown.

- Bibliography: Anonymous. "Summer Activities." The Texas Caver, Vol. 1, No. 1, p. 4. October, 1955.
- White, Patrick J. "Caves of Central Texas." The Caves of Texas, p. 63. Bulletin Ten of the National Speleological Society. April, 1948.
- Widener, Donald L., ed. Texas Cave Survey, Vol. 1, No. 1, p. 3. Reprinted in Speleo Digest 1958, p. 1-317. Published by Pittsburgh Grotto, N.S.S. May, 1959.
- Ref: SSS and TSS files

GOAT CAVE

Williamson County (# 28)

Round Rock 15' Quadrangle

Owner: "Doc" Weir

Description: The entrance to Goat Cave is a collapse sink about 10' in diameter and 5' deep. To the south a low passage slopes down a few feet and extends about 30' or 40' to form a small, low room. To the north a steeply sloping passage extends along the side of breakdown from the entrance for about 60' vertically and possibly 150' horizontally. The ceiling also slopes steeply so that the passage is actually only about 4' high, although the steepness of the floor enables a semi-walking situation. At the bottom a small, low room has formed and cracks and holes in the floor drop from this small room a few feet, but become too small to negotiate. The cave is used by goats for shelter, especially in the small southern room. The bones of goats which entered the northern passage and were unable to escape are found throughout this part of the cave. The cave is inhabited by millipeds, harvestmen, cave crickets, and an occasional rattlesnake.

Ref: SSS and TSS files

THE GOLD MINE

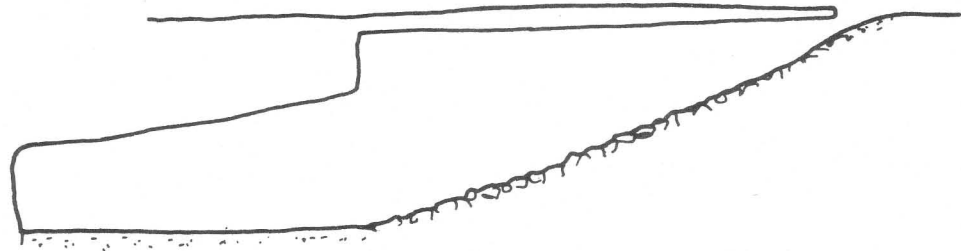
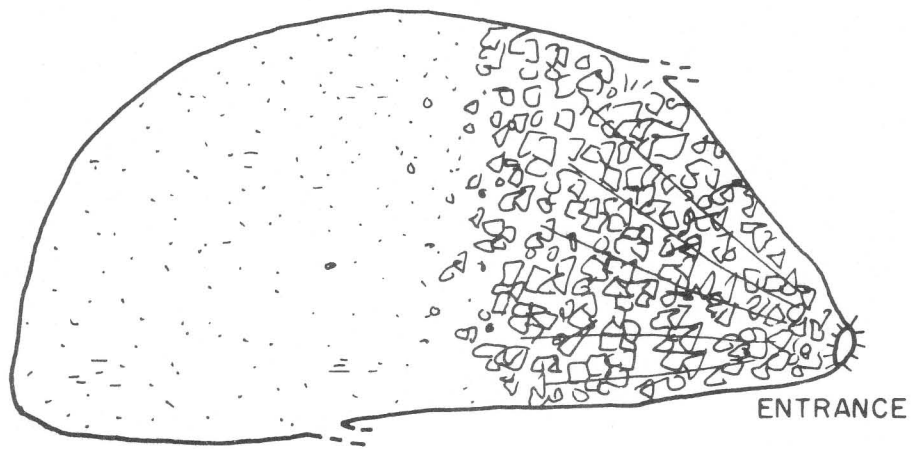
Williamson County (# 16)

Round Rock 15' Quadrangle

Owner: D. B. Wood

Description: This is the site of a group of man-made shafts and one natural cave. The shafts, of various depth and diameter were dug some years ago in search of Spanish gold buried, supposedly, in a chamber 200' below the surface. The former operators had a number of people investing in this project for a share of the promised gold, which was, of course, never found. The remains of several buildings, iron rails for ore carts, cables, etc., are scattered around several large mounds of debris from the shafts. Before these mounds became overgrown, some of them were large enough to be seen from the highway, a distance of a couple of miles. Several of the shafts are filled, another appears to be about 40' deep, and the bottom of another could not be seen with a five-cell flashlight. The one natural cave is perhaps the largest single room in Williamson County. There has been tunnelling from the bottom of this room and a shaft has been sunk through the roof of the cave. In several places large boulders are shored-up with very rotten timbers. Much extremely loose rock makes the cave unsafe for exploration. The cave is closed by the owner to all exploration.

Ref: SSS files



PROFILE

FOUR-MILE CAVE

WILLIAMSON CO., TEXAS

BRUNTON & TAPE SURVEY
BY UTSS, SPRING 1962

HEART OF TEXAS RANCH CAVE NO. 1 (OVERBY RANCH CAVE NO. 1) Williamson County (# 45)

Round Rock 15' Quadrangle

Owner: Kouri Bros.

Description: A shallow sink opens into a 15' long crawlway leading to the bottom of a 7' dome. At the top of the dome there is a 2' in diameter entrance. Explored by Bill Russell and other members of the University of Texas Grotto. Several caves on this ranch were investigated by the Dallas Speleological Society prior to 1958, but it is impossible to identify their brief reports with any of the known caves.

Bibliography: Widener, Donald L., ed. Texas Cave Survey, Vol. 1, No. 1, p. 3.
Reprinted in Speleo Digest 1958, p. 317. Published by Pittsburgh Grotto, N.S.S.
May, 1959.

Ref: TSS files

HEART OF TEXAS RANCH CAVE NO. 2 (OVERBY RANCH CAVE NO. 2) Williamson County (# 46)

Round Rock 15' Quadrangle

Owner: Kouri Bros.

Description: Located in the second clump of trees northwest of the windmill, a 2.5' in diameter, 8' deep sink opens into a room about 20' long and 5' high. Two passages leading from the west side of this room extend for a short distance to two low rooms, one above the other. There is also a low room just to the north of the main room. Several rattlesnakes were seen in the cave. Explored by Bill Russell and other members of the University of Texas Grotto.

Bibliography: Widener, Donald L., ed. Texas Cave Survey, Vol. 1, No. 1, p. 3.
Reprinted in Speleo Digest 1958, p. 1-317. Published by Pittsburgh Grotto,
N.S.S. May, 1959.

Ref: TSS files

HEART OF TEXAS RANCH CAVE NO. 3 (OVERBY RANCH CAVE NO. 3) Williamson County (# 47)

Round Rock 15' Quadrangle

Owner: Kouri Bros.

Description: Located west-northwest of Heart of Texas Ranch Cave No. 2, this is a 3' in diameter sink which opens into an elongated room about 20' long and 5' high. Rattlesnakes have been seen in the entrance. Explored by Bill Russell and other members of the University of Texas Grotto.

Bibliography: Widener, Donald L., ed. Texas Cave Survey, Vol. 1, No. 1, p. 3.
Reprinted in Speleo Digest 1958, p. 1-317. Published by Pittsburgh Grotto,
N.S.S. May, 1959.

Ref: TSS files

HEART OF TEXAS RANCH CAVE NO. 4

Williamson County (# 48)

Round Rock 15' Quadrangle

Owner: Kouri Bros.

Description: This is a 15' deep sink in the bed of a small creek near the railroad northwest of the ranch house. Explored by Bill Russell and other members of the University of Texas Grotto.

Bibliography: Widener, Donald L., ed. Texas Cave Survey, Vol. 1, No. 1, p. 3. Reprinted in Speleo Digest 1958, p. 1-317. Published by Pittsburgh Grotto, N.S.S. May, 1959.

Ref: TSS files

HEART OF TEXAS TRASH CAVE

Williamson County (# 49)

Round Rock 15' Quadrangle

Owner: Kouri Bros.

Description: Located about 200 yards south of the first windmill on the left, the entrance to the cave is a $1\frac{1}{2}$ ' in diameter, 10' deep sink dropping into a small room. From this room a very small stream passage can be followed to the northwest as a difficult crawl for at least 30'. This passage also extends to the south where it is partially blocked by breakdown. First explored in 1958 by Bill Russell, Tommy Evans, and Tom White, a return trip was made in January, 1961, by Tom White and Tommy Evans.

Bibliography: Widener, Donald L., ed. Texas Cave Survey, Vol. 1, No. 1, p. 3. Reprinted in Speleo Digest 1958, p. 1-317. Published by Pittsburgh Grotto, N.S.S. May, 1959.

Ref: TSS files

JACOB'S WELL

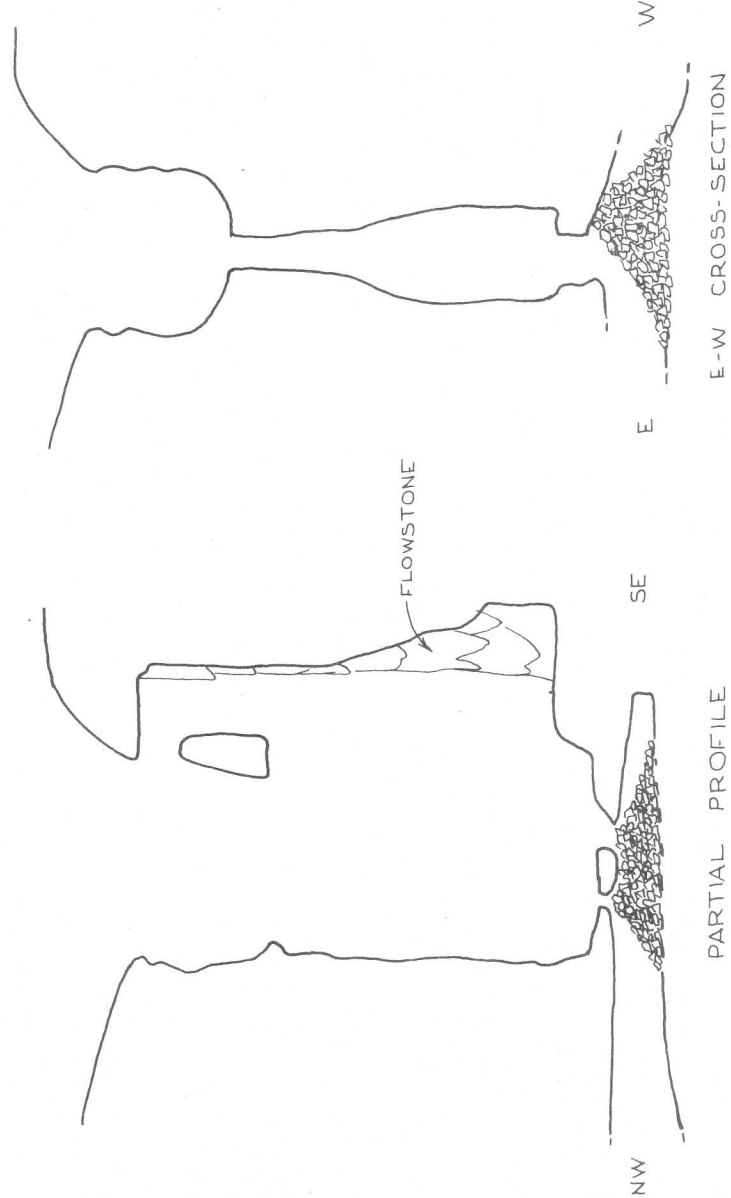
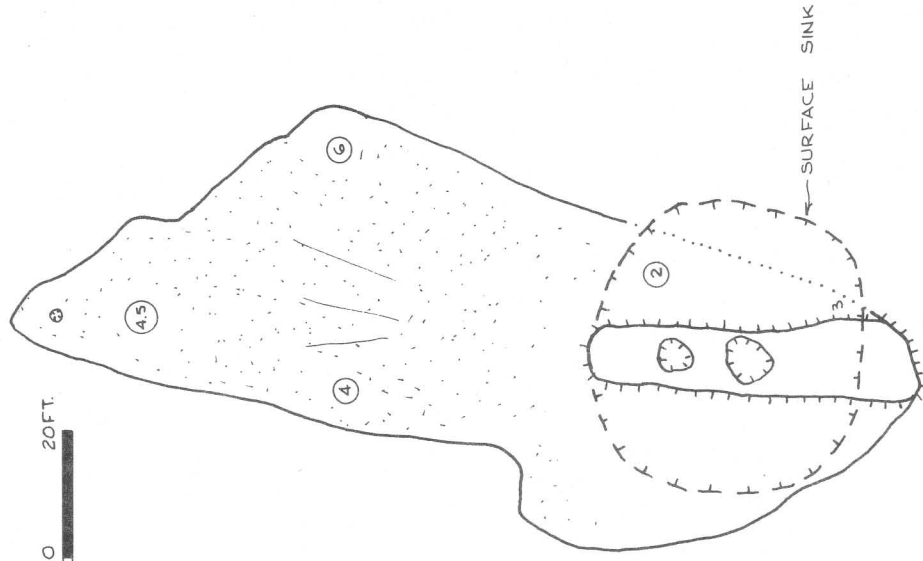
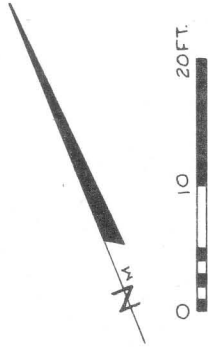
Williamson County (# 5)

Georgetown 30' Quadrangle

Owner: D. B. Harrison

Description: The entrance is located in a fenced-off grove of trees at the south end of a large field. A surface sink about 20' in diameter drops 15' to a north-south crevice. This crevice drops an additional 30' to a low silt-floored room. This room is about 60' long and averages about 3' in height, although towards the west end of the room it is possible to stand in places. The room extends south from the entrance sink and to the north the fissure continues for about 10' where it ends in several flowstone curtains. When first visited a small hole at the end of the crack violently blew air, but this hole could not be located on subsequent visits. The owner of the cave reports that many years ago guano was mined from the cave and a large number of bats would fly from the cave on summer evenings. The bats supposedly lived in a series of rooms to the north of the sink, but the owner believes that silt washed in from the extensive cleared fields surrounding the entrance has blocked the passage to the north. This is quite possible as the cave drains a small local area and washed-in silt would tend to collect. The cave should be visited during the winter when air currents are generally stronger and then it will probably be possible to locate the hole to the north, which might be enlarged. It was mapped on December 13, 1962, by Bill Russell and Terry Raines of the University of Texas Grotto. (See map, pages 37 and 38)

Ref: TSS files



JACOB'S WELL
 WILLIAMSON CO. TEXAS
 BRUNTON & TAPE SURVEY BY
 B. RUSSELL & T. RAINE, 12-13-62
 DRAWN BY D. SMITH, 2-28-63
 UTSS

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KU KLUX KLAN CAVE

Williamson County (# 29)

Round Rock 15' Quadrangle

Owner: "Doc" Weir

Description: The entrance to the cave is on the south side of a shallow sink. A slope leads down into a large room, 80' x 40', running southwest. The ceiling height averages about 10' in the center, but gradually tapers to a belly crawl at the end. One small extension of 6 or 7 feet leads from the west wall of the entrance room, and a nearby small pit in the floor drains the cave. There are a few dead stalactites. The cave is of local interest as it is believed to have been the former meeting place of the KKK. Steps have been cut in the entrance slope and several stone tables or benches have been made. A wooden cross discovered in the cave is believed to be a joke.

Ref: SSS and TSS files

THE LOOKOUT

Williamson County (# 22)

Round Rock 15' Quadrangle

Owner:

Description: The entrance is over 6' high, from which an upward-sloping passage extends about 20' until floor meets ceiling. At the very back there was at one time a shaft to the surface which is now blocked. A small hole in the ceiling a few feet from this plugged shaft leads to a tiny room, which, by means of another small hole, connects to the surface. Hawks use the cave as a nesting place at times, as is evidenced by the feathers and by dozens of rat skulls on the floor.

Ref: SSS files

LORFING'S UNSEEN RATTLER CAVE (REPLY CAVE #4)

Williamson County (# 14)

Round Rock 15' Quadrangle

Owner: D. D. Godwin

Description: A small natural shaft about 3' deep leads to one small room. A rattlesnake was heard under breakdown near the entrance but could not be located. Total length of the cave is about 25' and the total depth about 12'.

Ref: SSS files

LOZANO'S MINE

Williamson County (# 23)

Georgetown 30' Quadrangle

Owner: Romulo Lozano

Description: Two 20' deep shafts are connected by a 35' long horizontal tunnel at the bottom of this largely man-made cave. Portions of the original natural cave may be seen on the side of the eastern-most shaft. Trapping was done in the cave at one time as is evidenced by two rusty traps in the east trap, one still containing the bones of an animal. The purpose of the excavation is not known.

Ref: SSS files

MCBONNET CAVE

Williamson County (#68)

Georgetown 30' Quadrangle

Owner: Niven

Description: The entrance to the cave is a 3' in diameter hole dropping about 10' to a floor of small rocks. From here a 6' drop leads into a 12' long, perpendicular passage ending in silt. Total length of the cave is about 25'.

Ref: TSS files

MCNEIL QUARRY CAVE (SAM BASS CAVE)

Williamson County (# 65)

Austin 15' Quadrangle

Owner:

Description: The natural entrance, and apparently most of the cave itself, has been destroyed by quarrying operations during the past 15 or 20 years. The cave has had the local reputation of extending for miles and containing the loot of Sam Bass, but it is very doubtful if Sam Bass ever entered the cave and it almost certainly never extended for miles, although it may have been much more extensive than is indicated by the remaining portions of the cave. A talus slope at the base of a small limestone bluff, left by the quarry, admits one into the main room of the cave. This is about 40' long, 30' wide, and 4'-5' high. To the left it is possible to climb over large blocks of breakdown and go through a tight passage for a few feet. To the right a slope leads over small travertine dams to a 7' high "room". This is blocked by collapse from the quarry, but by going to the left over a 10' wide, 2' high crawl floored with small travertine dams, some containing drip water, it is possible to reach a room about 20' long, 15' wide, and 10' high. This contains some quite nice columns and stalagmites which must at one time have been quite beautiful. The cave has been completely vandalized with only these large formations left standing. The cave was visited in 1903 by Dr. J. H. Comstock who collected a new species of beetle and a new species of spider in the cave. It has been frequently visited by local people and occasionally by organized cavers.

Biology: The cave is of primary interest biologically, since it represents the type locality of the first described cave beetle and cave spider from Texas. Originally described in 1918 as a new genus, Comstockia subterranea Van Dyke, this beetle was re-examined in the light of further specimens and placed in the genus Agonum, subgenus Rhadine, by Barr and Lawrence in 1960. The spider was described in 1940 as Cicurina buwata. A collection of invertebrates was made by James Reddell and Bill Russell on July 25, 1963. This material included an earthworm; pillbugs; a milliped, Speodesmus bicornourus Causey; a blind phalangid; a blind spider, Cicurina buwata Chamberlin and Ivie; two troglomorphic species of spider, Cicurina varians Gertsch & Mulaik and Nesticus pallidus Emerton; collembola; cave crickets; and staphylinid beetles. The carabid beetle, Agonum (Rhadine) subterraneum (Van Dyke) was not found.

Bibliography: Barr, Thomas C., Jr. "The Cavernicolous Beetles of the Subgenus Rhadine, Genus Agonum (Coleoptera: Carabidae)." The American Midland Naturalist, Vol. 64, No. 1, pp. 59-60. July, 1960.
Barr, Thomas C., Jr. "Rare Beetles Found in Texas Cave." NSS News, Vol. 17, No. 4, p. 54. April, 1959.

- Barr, Thomas C., Jr. and John F. Lawtence. "New Cavernicolous Species of Agonum (Rhadine) from Texas (Coleoptera: Carabidae)." The Wasmann Journal of Biology, Vol. 18, No. 1. Spring, 1960.
- Chamberlin, Ralph V. and Wilton Ivie. "Agelenid Spiders of the Genus Cicurina." Bulletin of the University of Utah, Biological Series, Vol. V, No. 9, pp. 73-74. June, 1940.
- Nicholas, Brother G. "Checklist of Macroscopic Troglotic Organisms of the United States." The American Midland Naturalist, Vol. 64, No. 1, p. 141. July 1960.
- Van Dyke, Edwin C. "A New Genus and Species of Cave-Dwelling Carabidae (Coleoptera) from the United States." Journal of the New York Entomological Society, Vol. XXVI, pp. 179-181. Sept.-Dec. 1918.

Ref: TSS files

MAN-WITH-A-SPEAR CAVE

Williamson County (# 30)

Round Rock 15' Quadrangle

Owner: "Doc" Weir

Description: The entrance to the cave is a small hole in breakdown at the bottom of a shallow sink. This leads down a 15' long breakdown slope into a room about 100' long, 30' wide, and 10' high, floored with large breakdown blocks. In the center of the room a dome reaches about 20', almost reaching the surface. To the right the room rises up a breakdown slope to a dead-end. To the left it drops over several large breakdown blocks to a point about 30' below the entrance. Here the cave ends in silt. A few small interconnecting crawlways run under the breakdown blocks. The cave has been explored by members of the Southwestern Speleological Society.

Biology: Guano on the floor indicates that it is occasionally inhabited by a small colony of bats. A small collection of invertebrates was made on August 24, 1963, by James Reddell and Bill Russell. Material collected included millipeds, Cambala speobius (Chamberlin); harvestmen and a blind phalangid; two trogliphilic spiders, Cicurina varians Gertsch & Mulaik and Achaearanea porteri Banks; collembola; and a blind beetle, Agonum (Rhadine) sp.

Ref: SSS and TSS files

MURAL CAVE (MERRILL CAVE)

Williamson County (# 66)

Austin 15' Quadrangle

Owner:

Description

flat limestone surface. This hole opens into the south end of a large room about 40' wide and 30' high whose flat roof is only about 4' below the surface. The breakdown and formation-covered floor of this room is about 30' below the surface and equipment is needed to enter the cave. From the entrance the cave extends for about 150' to the north. Most of the cave consists of one room, largest at the south end and becoming smaller towards the north where breakdown and formations reach almost to the ceiling. There are several short crawlways through the breakdown on the floor but none extend beyond the room above the breakdown. Although heavily vandalized the cave still contains several impressive formations too large to break. The most noticeable of these are several slender columns extending from floor to ceiling. Rumors to the effect that Floyd Potter, an ex-University of Texas biologist, crawled for more than a mile down one of the crawlways are believed to be totally false.

History: This is one of the best-known caves in the Williamson-Travis County area and has been visited literally hundreds of times by members of the University of Texas Grotto and other caving groups across the state. Its early history is not known, but it was probably first located by cavers in 1948. A letter from Carl Clayton dated 11/5/49 states "Mrl Floyd Potter and I enlisted the aid of a high school boy in locating a small cave at McNeil." It was first reported to the University of Texas Grotto by Bennie Pierson who took several members of the grotto to the cave. Several trips were made each year to show the cave to new members, and only during the last three or four years has this practice been discontinued. The cave was described in the Austin newspapers in the early 1950's with much resultant vandalism by local people. A rusty iron ladder hung in the cave for several years but was removed in 1958 when it was determined to be unsafe. Other trips to the cave included a trip by members of the Dallas Speleological Society in September, 1957.

Biology: Guano on the floor of the cave indicates that at one time it contained a small population of bats, but very few inhabit the cave now. In the past the cave has been a favorite collecting place for frogs and slimy salamanders. "Three caves along the Balcones Excarnation have been found to have populations of Eleutherodactylus latrans. Mr. Potter collected an individual from Merrill's Cave, three miles west of McNeil, Williamson County, Texas, in November, 1948. The writer returned shortly thereafter with Mr. Potter and located two more barking frogs but was unable to collect either of them. Plethodon glutinosus (slimy salamanders) were plentiful in the cave. Several Syrrhophus marnocki (Marnock's frog), a Rana pipiens (leopard frog), a Bufo valliceps (crested toad), and two copperheads (Agkistrodon contortrix) were collected in the cave." (Jameson, 1949) At one time several rodents were placed in the cave by Floyd Potter in an attempt to see how many of the animals would survive; however subsequent attempts to trap the animals failed, perhaps due to violent dynamiting in the cave during the experiment.

- Bibliography: Anonymous. "Summer Activities." The Texas Caver, Vol. 1, No. 1, p.4. October, 1955.
- Anonymous. "Take Nothing - Leave Nothing." The Texas Caver, Vol. IV, No. 2, p. 8. Mar.-Apr. 1959.
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Ref: TSS files

PLAYHOUSE CAVE

Williamson County (# 34)

Round Rock 15' Quadrangle

Owner: "Doc" Weir

Description: This small and extremely low cave appears to extend beyond the entrance room, but it becomes too small to negotiate.

Ref: SSS files

RAMSEL'S CORRAL CAVE

Williamson County (# 21)

Georgetown 30' Quadrangle

Owner: W. B. Ramsel

Description: This cave consists of a medium-sized room. It was once used as a sheep corral.

Ref: SSS files

RATTLESNAKE FILLED CAVE

Williamson County (# 3)

Georgetown 30' Quadrangle

Owner:

Description: The entrance to the cave is about 5' long and 2' wide, and when first discovered was filled with large rocks to keep out livestock. These were removed on August 24, 1963, by James Reddell and Bill Russell to allow exploration; they were later replaced. A drop of about 15' leads into a room elongated east-west. It is about 5' high at the east end and lowers to about 3' at the west end. The room is about 25' wide, 40' long and is floored with silt and small breakdown. From the east end of the room a passage too low to follow extends to the northeast.

Biology: At least two rattlesnakes were seen at the entrance of the cave when it was opened. At this time a small collection of invertebrates was made by James Reddell and Bill Russell. This collection included a blind milliped, Cambala speobius (Chamberlin); a blind spider, Cicurina sp.; two troglomorphic spiders, Cicurina varians Gertsch & Mulaik and Meloneta sp; a troglomorphic beetle, Tachys (Tachyura) ferrugineus (Dej.); and cave crickets.

Ref: TSS files

RED HOUSE RANCH CAVE (RED HOUSE CAVE)

Williamson County (#26)

Round Rock 15' Quadrangle

Owner: Mrs. Sam Harris; lessee: R. D. Fletcher

Description: The entrance is the result of an ancient collapse and drops 3' to a rubble pile which descends about 15' to the floor of the cave. A large pecan tree grows in the entrance. A "trail" leads from the entrance, around two large dry flowstone masses, and drops step-like into the guano room. Just to the left of the trail and just before it enters the guano room it is possible to crawl back (eastward) about 15' where a small chimney leads up to the one small formation room of the cave. This room is not shown on the map. It was named the Chapel Room and was discovered by Richard Finch, Mike Weir, and Don Todd in 1956 and contains an outstanding number of soda straws, a few helictites, and some small musical totem poles about a foot and a half high. An interesting note is that these formations are still living and were so when discovered during the height of the drought while the rest of the cave was dead. From the floor it was judged that the room had never been entered and remains little known with the result that there has been no vandalism. Continuing along the crawl which leads to the chimney to the Chapel Room, one can enter some small, muddy, lower passageways by crawling and sliding through some extremely tight holes between the rocks. From the Guano Room a tight crawl leads to the northwest for about 30' into a

small, 9' high room, floored with breakdown. On the west side of the room a talus slope leads up a tight crawl to a 29' deep dug shaft, excavated for the purpose of extracting guano from the Guano Room. Both it and another shaft missed, the latter missing the cave altogether. This second shaft is all but completely filled. Guano was purchased in 1962 by Texas Agricultural and Mechanical College for study. Guano in the Guano Room is up to three feet deep. Most of the floor of the cave is covered by guano, although in places small breakdown is to be found. The total length of the cave is about 300' and the total depth about 40'. It was mapped by Dick Smith, James Reddell, Bob Benfer, and James Estes on May 28, 1961. (See map, page 45)

Biology: Besides containing one of the largest bat colonies in Williamson County, the cave contains the usual parasites and other insects associated with bats. A small collection was made in 1961 by Tom Warden who also made the following identifications: two mites, Fuscurophoda agitans and Mesostigmata sp.; a fly, Leptomtopa laticeps (Meigen); and a beetle of the family Erotilidae.

Bibliography: Anonymous. "News: Southwestern Univ." The Texas Caver, Vol. VII, No. 5, p. 73. May, 1962.

Ref: SSS, TSS, and UTG files

REPLY CAVE #2 (GODWIN'S GOAT GRAVE CAVE)

Williamson County (# 11)

Round Rock 15' Quadrangle

Owner: D. D. Godwin

Description: The entrance to the cave drops immediately to a crawl and then a belly crawl in a wide, but low, mud-floored room, ending after about 40'. It was partially explored by members of the Southwestern Speleological Society, but several recently dead goats lay in the belly crawl. Tom Warden of the Balcones Grotto visited the cave later and explored the crawl to its end.

Ref: SSS files, T.B. Warden

RIDERLESS CAVE

Williamson County (# 24)

Georgetown 30' Quadrangle

Owner: Edwin C. Vinther

Description: The cave is entered by a walk-in passage at the north end of a large sink. After about 30' it opens into a room about 25' wide, 50' long, and 13' high. A natural bridge leads to a small crawlway on the north end of the main room. This extends about 25' to an artificial barrier erected by the owner to prevent sick goats from crawling out of reach. The owner has asked that this barrier not be destroyed by explorers. The cave was mapped in May, 1963, by members of the Southwestern Speleological Society. (See map, page 16)

Ref: SSS files

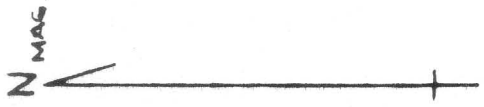
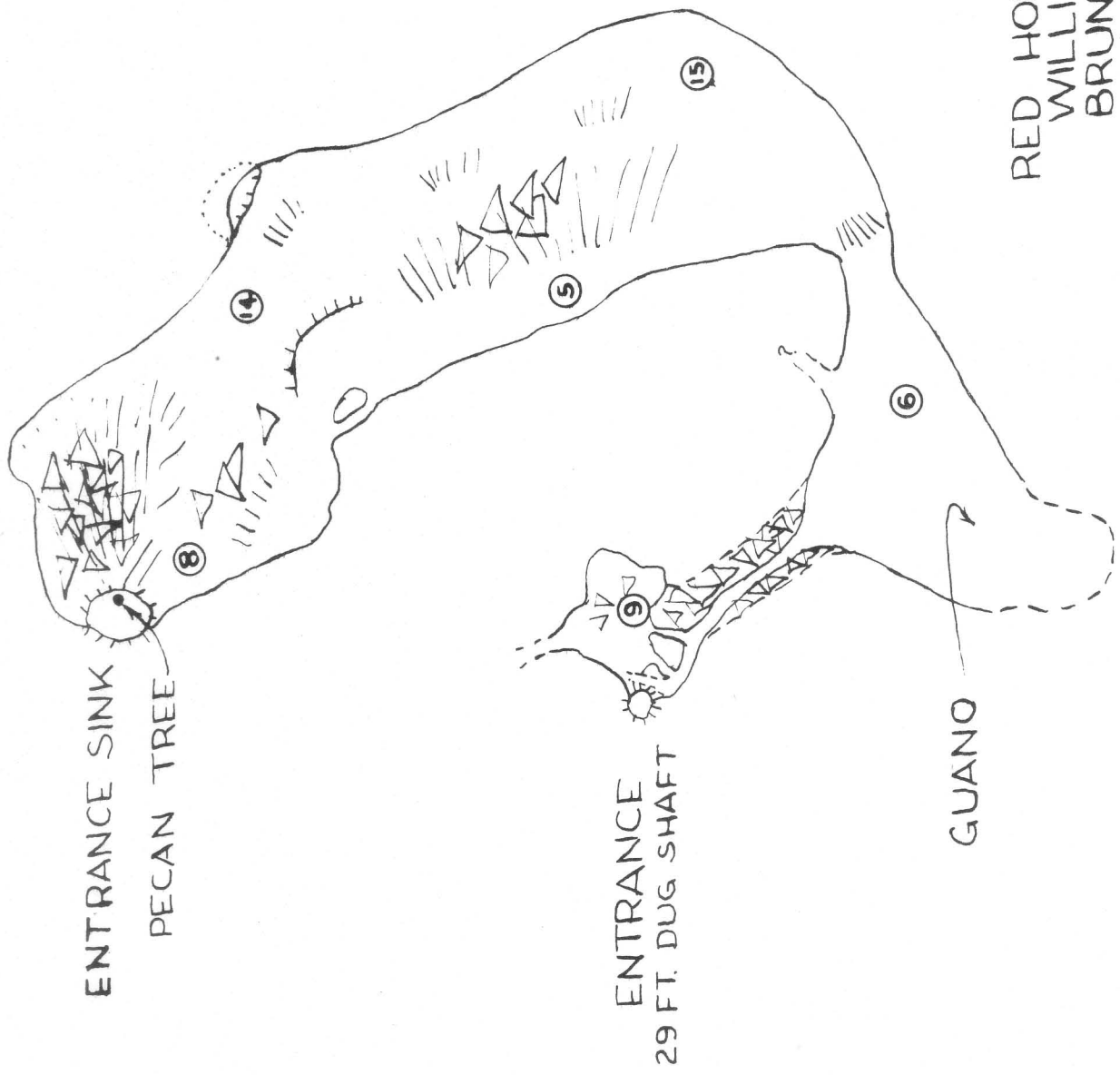
ROUND ROCK BREATHING CAVE

Williamson County (# 50)

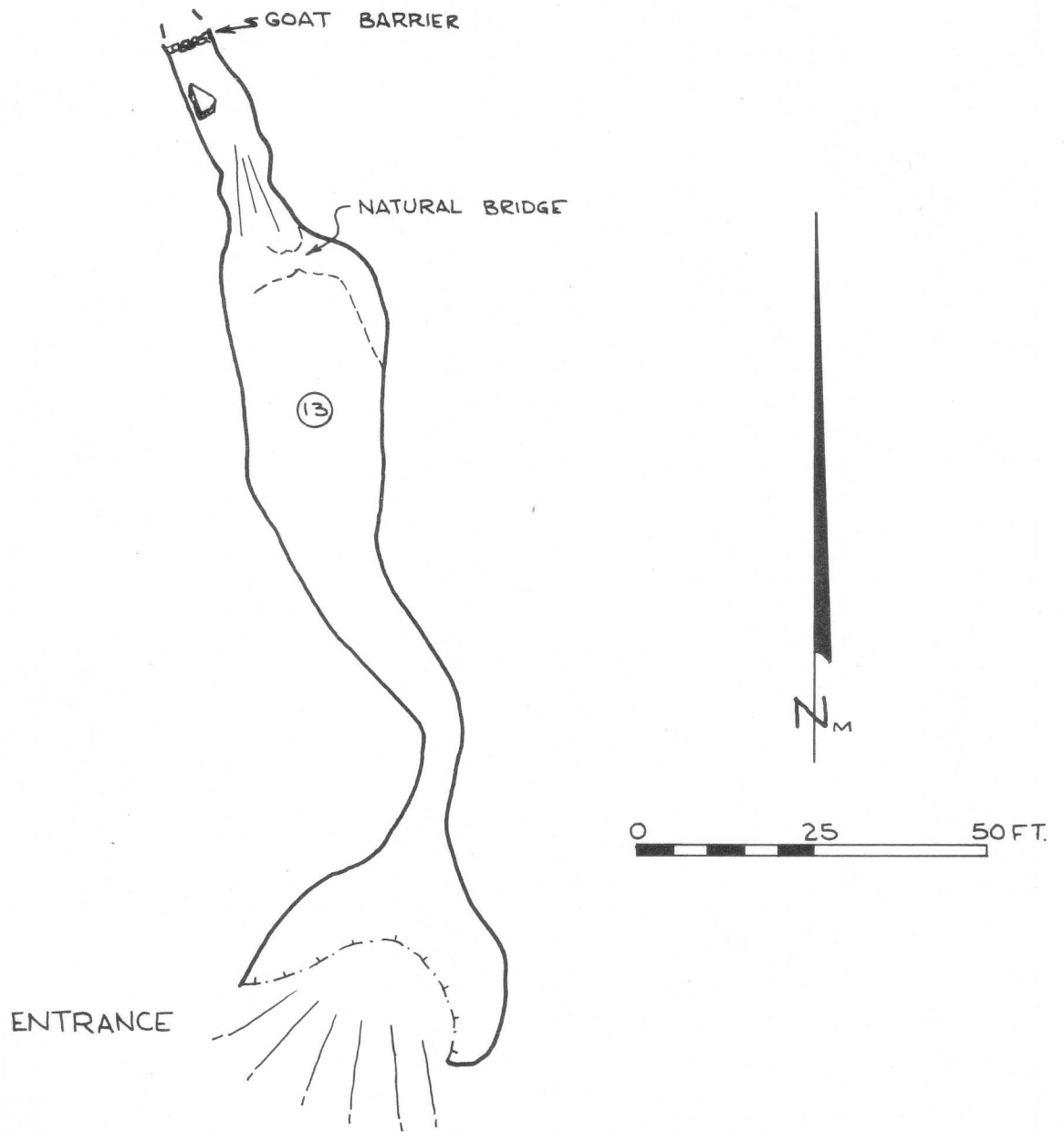
Round Rock 15' Quadrangle

Owner: Walsh Ranch

Description: The entrance to the cave is a shallow sink on a north-facing slope. This shallow sink, about 4' deep and 6' wide, opens into a shallow room about 6' high, 8' wide, and 15' long. From the lower end of this room, about 10' below



RED HOUSE RANCH CAVE
 WILLIAMSON CO., TEXAS
 BRUNTON AND TAPE SURVEY
 BY D. SMITH, J. REDELL
 J. ESTES, B. BENFER, 5-28-'61



RIDERLESS CAVE

WILLIAMSON CO., TEXAS

COMPASS & TAPE SURVEY BY
D. ANDERSON & R. FINCH, 5-21-63
SSS

the entrance, a small crawlway extends about 25' to a room 4' high, 12' long, and 6' high. From this last room lead several holes too small to enter. Two racoons and a skunk were seen in this last room.

Meteorology: This cave is one of the few known breathing caves in Texas, and has the longest recorded period of oscillation of any breathing cave. When the cave is breathing, apparently about one-half of the time, the air blows out of the cave for approximately 45 minutes and then reverses and blows into the cave for another 45 minutes. The actual flow of air is rather gusty, and near the time of reversal there are commonly several minutes of no air flow, interrupted by weak air movements in and out of the cave. The peak velocity is about 4 mph through the small crawlway. Various attempts have been made to calculate the size of the cave necessary to produce oscillations with a period of 90 minutes, but all calculations have given an impossibly large size. It has been noted, however, that when the calculated volumes of breathing caves are compared with the actual volumes, the discrepancies are much larger for long periods of oscillation. Thus in caves that breathe with periods of about 30 seconds, the actual volumes and the calculated volumes are in good agreement, but when the period of breathing increases to about five minutes the calculated volume is greatly in excess of the known volume. It is quite probably that formulae which were derived to describe oscillations with a period of tenths or hundredths of a second--corresponding to a size of a few feet--are no longer applicable when applied to caves with periods of as long as 90 minutes (5400 sec.).

Ref: TSS files

ROY'S FOLLY #1 CAVE

Williamson County (# 42)

Round Rock 15' Quadrangle

Owner: "Doc" Weir

Description: The cave consists of one medium-sized room entered by a short snakey-looking crawlway about 8' long. There are two large stalagmites (about 5' high, 3' wide, and 1' thick) in the room, which is of standing height. Part of a large Indian spearhead was dug out of the floor of the cave, which is about 30' long.

Ref: SSS files

ROY'S FOLLY # CAVE

Williamson County (# 43)

Round Rock 15' Quadrangle

Owner: "Doc" Weir

Description: The cave is entered by an almost unnoticeable tiny hole barely large enough for a man to enter. Total depth is about 10' and total length about 25'. Although the formations are dead, this single room is one of the heaviest decorated of all the caves of Williamson County.

Ref: SSS files

SAPLING SINK

Williamson County (# 36)

Round Rock 15' Quadrangle

Owner: Dr. W. W. Laubach

Description: This is a small cave just south of Chinaberry Cave. A short squeeze at the bottom of a shallow sink leads to a room 15' long, 10' high, and 10' wide.

Ref: TSS files

STEAM CAVE

Williamson County (# 37)

Round Rock Quadrangle 15' Quadrangle

Owner: Dr. W.W. Laubach

Description: The most visited cave in Williamson County and one of the most visited in the state, Steam Cave is frequently underrated. It is one of the longest, largest, most complex, and for the objective observer one of the most interesting caves in the county. It consists essentially of two main sets of joint-controlled passages, one running NNE-SSW and the other ESE-WSW. The most northern entrance to the cave is a sink dropping vertically 20' into a four-way junction. The northeastern and southwestern passages dead-end after a short distance, but the one to the east extends for about 100' to a formation area followed by a passage to the left. This passage extends over an area of powdery limestone sand to a narrow crack which drops into the Helictite Room, named because of crystalline limestone extending from the wall and resembling helictites. From this passage the cave continues about 75' to a dead-end. From the entrance a passage extends to a 5'-10' wide, 5'-10' high passage which extends south-southwest for about 100'. Two interconnecting passages to the right lead to a parallel passage which leads to the southwest to a crawl-in entrance. The main cave passage leads to a 10' high, 20' in diameter room formed by the intersection of four passages. A 15' vertical entrance drops into the room along one wall. The passage to the west leads to a dead-end in breakdown; to the east the passage extends for about 150' as a 10' high passage, which connects to the right to the main passage by way of a small crawl; and to the south the main passage leads to a fourth entrance, a small sink reached by a crawl. A narrow crawl to the right just before the entrance leads to a 20' long, 8' high room, also connected by a separate crawl to the same entrance. A passage just past the 15' shaft entrance leads to the east for about 200' where an upper-level crawl drops about 8' into the main passage. This crawl extends about 15' to a 3' deep entrance sink. A passage to the northeast leads from this entrance for about 40' to a dead-end. Just before the drop into the main passage a slope to the right leads up to a small entrance excavated in about 1961. One of the most interesting aspects of the cave is that the walls are very deeply "weathered", forming a zone of very soft powdery limestone about six inches thick. This limestone has collected in many places to form a fine powdery sand up to several inches deep. Steam Cave also contains large numbers of large chert nodules. Perhaps the best-known aspect of the cave is the vandalism to which it has been subject. Every square inch of the walls have been covered with names and carving, and the few formations which may have once decorated the cave are now completely broken. Among names and dates found in the cave is the name of King Vivion, an ex-president of Southwestern University and dates in the early 1900's. The cave was mapped on May 12, 1955, by L. Littlefield and M. Peterson of the University of Texas Grotto. Wishing a more detailed map the cave was re-surveyed by James Reddell, Bill Russell, and Jim Arnold in July, 1963. (See map, page 49)

Biology: A small population of bats inhabits certain parts of the cave, and it is frequently the home of rattlesnakes, frogs, and toads. Ferns grow around the entrances. David Lee Jameson observed Syrrhophus marnocki Cope (Marnock's frog) in the cave in 1952, and the same species along with the toad, Bufo valliceps, was observed by James Reddell and Tommy Phillips on January 6, 1963. Two collections of invertebrates have been made in the cave, one by James Reddell and Tommy

Phillips on January 6, 1963; and another on July 7, 1963, by James Reddell and Bill Russell. A faunal list follows:

Arthropoda

Myriapoda

Chilopoda

Diplopoda

Cambala speobius (Chamberlin)

Speodesmus bicornourus Causey

Insecta

Orthoptera

Ceuthophilus cunicularis Hubbell

Ceuthophilus secretus Scudder

Collembola

Pseudosinella argentea Folsom

Coleoptera

Carabidae

Agonum (Rhadine) sp. (blind)

Staphylinidae

Arachnida

Scorpionida

✓ Centruroides vittatus Say

Vejovis sp.

Phalangida

Harvestmen

Cave phalangid

Araneae

✓ Achaeearanea porteri Banks

Argiope aurantia Lucas

✓ Cicurina sp. (blind)

✓ Cicurina varians Gertsch & Mulaik

Lycosa rabida Walchenaer

✓ Nesticus pallidus Emerton

Chordata

Amphibia

Bufo valliceps

Syrrhophus marnocki Cope

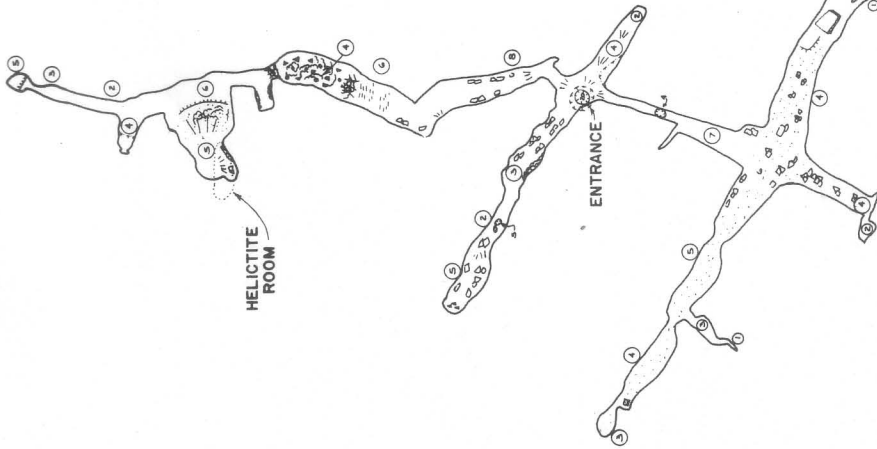
Reptilia

Rattlesnakes (not collected)

Mammalia

Chiroptera (not collected)

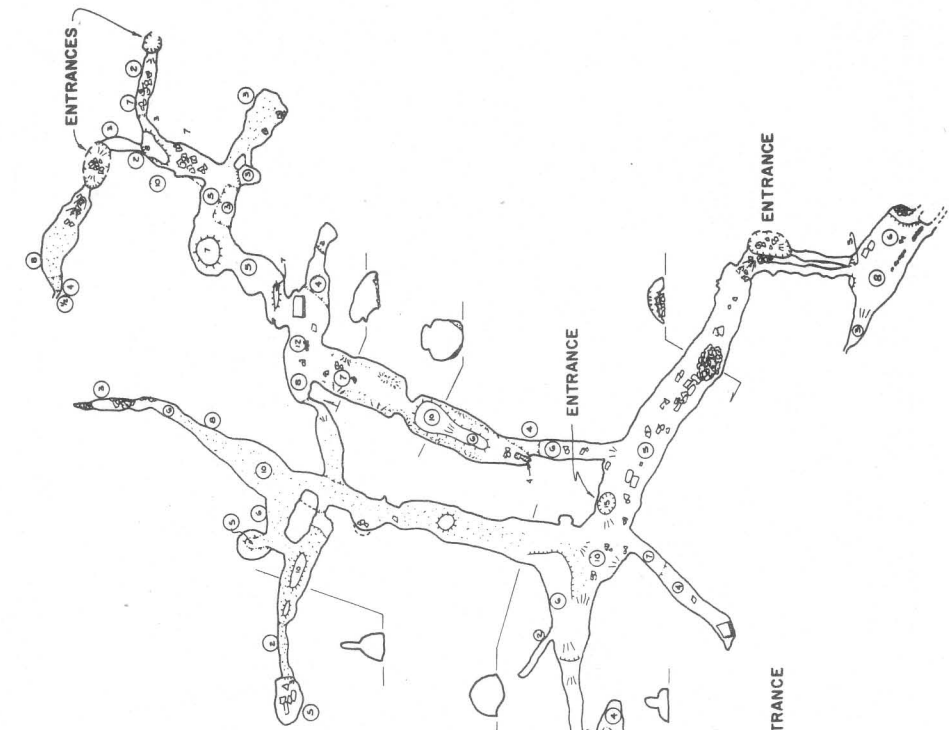
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STEAM CAVE
 WILLIAMSON COUNTY, TEXAS

BRUNTON & TAPE SURVEY BY
 J. REDDELL, B. RUSSELL, & J. ARNOLD, 7/63

DRAWN BY D. SMITH, 8/63
 UTSS



THREE-MILE CAVE (THE TIN CAN HOLE)

Williamson County (# 18)

Round Rock 15' Quadrangle

Owner:

Description: A shallow, sloping grass-covered sink about 20' in diameter forms the obvious entrance to this cave. A 4'-5' high, 8' wide hole on the north end of the entrance sink leads for about 30' over a slope of small breakdown. Throughout the entrance room the ceiling remains completely flat, while large breakdown slabs and, towards the end, flowstone cause the ceiling height to vary from 10'-20'. Numerous formations are to be found along the right wall, as well as several gaps between breakdown and the cave wall enabling one to climb down about 10'-15' into small "rooms". No passages extend from the right wall, but on the left side a slope over breakdown leads to a crawl about 3' high and 3' wide which leads after 30' to a 4' high, 20' in diameter room. Although the crawl extends beyond the room it is very tight and dead-ends after a short distance. Near the end of the entrance room the 40' wide passage narrows to about 15' and lowers to a 1'-3' high crawl which ends after about 30'. Most of the floor is covered with moist spongy guano, and many of the formations are alive. Rumors to the effect that the cave runs under the highway to eventually connect with Three-Mile Sink, are apparently false. (See map, pages 51-52)

Biology: The cave frequently houses a small bat colony. The entrance room of the cave contains literally thousands of spiders, mostly of the species Gaucelmus augustinus Keyserling. The troglomorphic spider, Cicurina varians Gertsch & Mulaik, also is to be found; and the spider, Agelenopsis aperta Gertsch was found just inside the entrance. Other fauna includes the blind milliped, Speodesmus bicornurus Causey; pillbugs; cave crickets; collembola; and a troglomorphic beetle, Tachys (Tachyura) ferrugineus (Dej.)

Bibliography: Widener, Donald L., ed. Texas Cave Survey, Vol. 1, No. 1, p. 4. Reprinted in Speleo Digest 1958, p. 1-313. Published by Pittsburgh Grotto, N.S.S. May, 1959.

Ref: SSS and TSS files

TONGUEGATE'S CAVE

Williamson County (# 57)

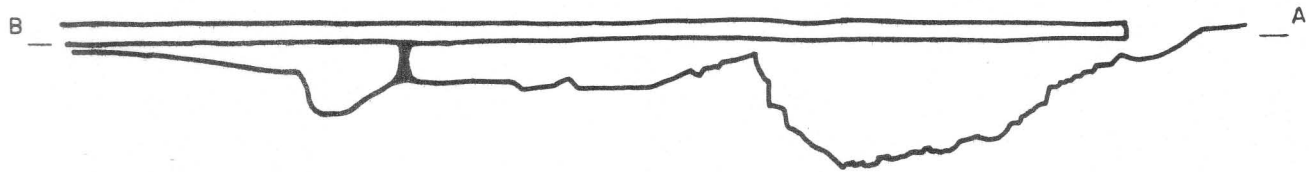
Round Rock 15' Quadrangle

Owner: Tonguegate

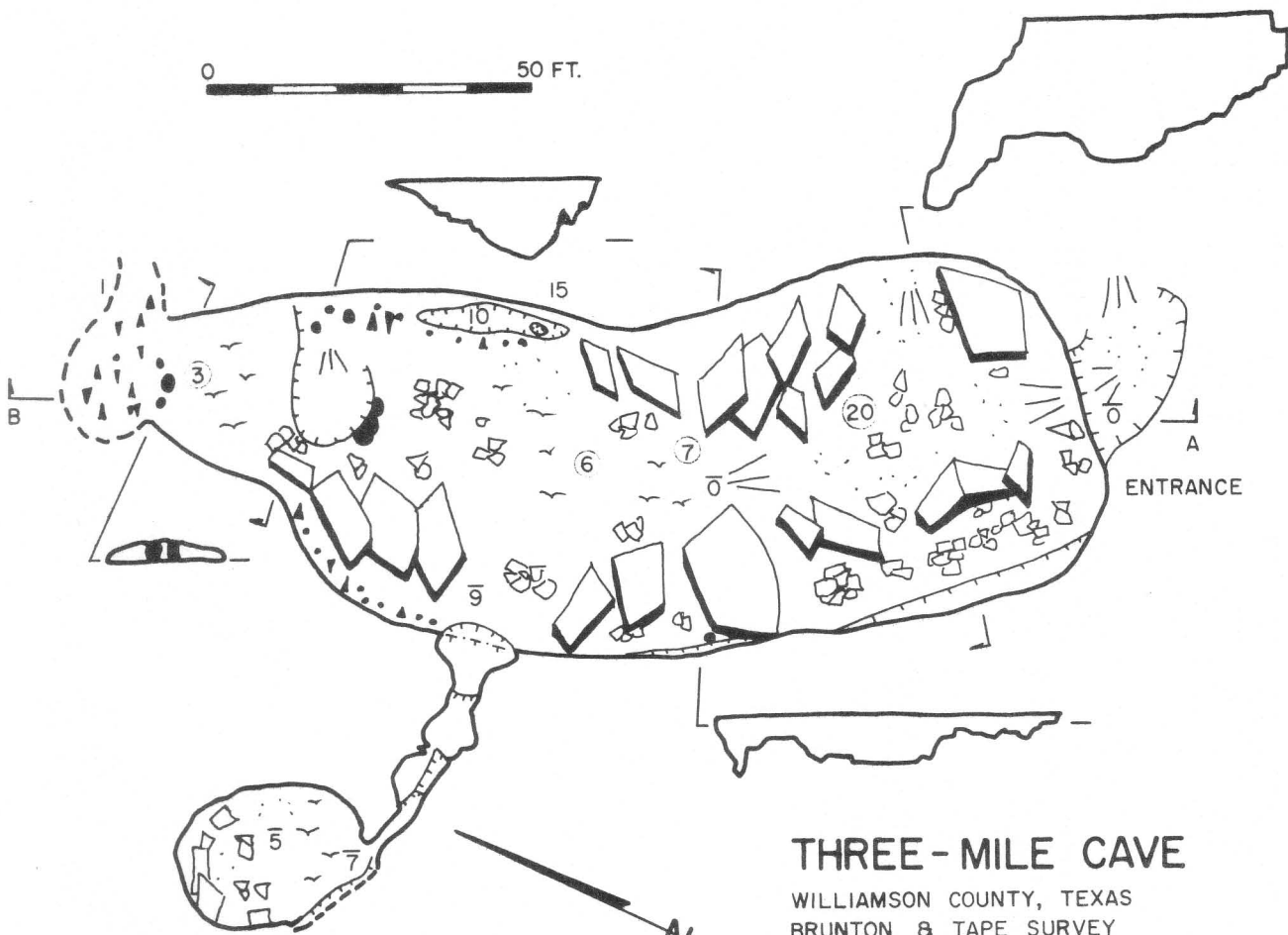
Description: Nothing is known of this except that 30' of rope is needed to enter it and it was explored by J. D. McClung in the early 1950's.

Bibliography: Widener, Donald L., ed. Texas Cave Survey, Vol. 1, No. 1, p. 5. Reprinted in Speleo Digest 1958, p. 1-313. Published by Pittsburgh Grotto, N.S.S. May, 1959.

Ref: TSS, UTG files



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THREE-MILE CAVE

WILLIAMSON COUNTY, TEXAS
BRUNTON & TAPE SURVEY
BY UTSS, AUGUST 1963

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WALSH RANCH CAVE

Williamson County (# 54)

Round Rock 15' Quadrangle

Owner: Walsh Ranch

Description: The entrance to the cave is a 5' in diameter solution sink, dropping about 10' into a room about 25' long, 15' wide, and at the highest point about 15' high. At the bottom of the entrance drop a slope over breakdown and flowstone leads to the lowest point of the room and the cave. Several nice white columns and stalagmites, 5'-10' high, decorate the entrance room. At the far end of the room a crawl over breakdown extends about 50' before becoming too small. The cave was visited on August 24, 1963, by James Reddell, Bill Russell, Jim Arnold, and other members of the University of Texas Grotto.

Biology: A collection of invertebrates was made by James Reddell and Bill Russell on August 24, 1963. This collection included a blind spider, Cicurina sp.; a pselaphid beetle, Batrisodes sp.; other spiders, Cicurina varians Gertsch & Mulaik, Achaearana porteri Banks, and Thanatus sp.; a centipede; collembola; and cave crickets.

Ref: TSS files

WALSH RANCH SINK NO. 1

Williamson County (# 51)

Round Rock 15' Quadrangle

Owner: Walsh Ranch

Description: A sink about 4' in diameter drops 15' into a room about 10' high and 20' in diameter. Explored by Bill Russell and other members of the University of Texas Grotto.

Ref: TSS files

WALSH RANCH SINK NO. 2

Williamson County (# 52)

Round Rock 15' Quadrangle

Owner: Walsh Ranch

Description: Located to the west of Walsh Ranch Sink No. 1 this is a 15' sink enlarging towards the bottom. Explored by Bill Russell and other members of the University of Texas Grotto.

Ref: TSS files

WILLIAMS CAVE NO. 1 (SEVEN ROOM CAVE)

Williamson County (# 13)

Round Rock 15' Quadrangle

Owner: Wayne Williams

Description: The main entrance to the cave is a sink dropping into an elongated passage forming a room about 10' high, 15' wide, and 40' long. Flowstone forms a ridge on the floor of the room at its far end and a constriction which extends

a few feet before dropping into the second room of the cave, which is about 30' long, 10' wide, and 15' high, with a round hole in the ceiling reaching to the surface. At the far end of this room a small hole about 10' above the floor leads via a crack-like crawl through flowstone into the third room, about 10' high and 10' in diameter. Stalagmites have formed almost to the ceiling at the end of the room, making it necessary to climb up several feet in order to reach the fourth room of the cave. A hole in curtains on the left side of this room leads into a fifth room, which is about 10' long, 5' wide, and 7' high. From here a tight squeeze, formed by the growth of curtains and massive flowstone, leads into the sixth room, the Cauliflower Room, which is about 15' long, 5' high, and 7' wide. At one time the room was partially under water with the result that stalactites and parts of the wall have been encrusted with peculiar cauliflower-like knobs. From here a very tight squeeze leads into the seventh and final room, which is about 10' long, 5' high, and 4' wide. The cave at this point is completely blocked with formations. There has been very little vandalism in the cave, outside of a few names carved in the Cauliflower Room and junk dumped through the vertical entrance into the second room. Originally explored by members of the University of Texas Grotto it has been recently visited by members of the Southwestern Speological Society and the Balcones Grotto.

Biology: A collection of invertebrates was made by James Reddell and Bill Russell on August 24, 1963. The cave contains a varied fauna of some interest, much of which is still under study. A small carabid beetle, Tachys (Tachyura) ferrugineus (Dej.), and a pselaphid beetle, Batrisodes sp., were found among rocks in the fourth room. Other fauna includes a blind milliped, Speodesmus bicornourus Causey; a blind spider, Cicurina sp.; several other species of spider, Nesticus sp, Cicurina varians Gertsch & Mulaik, Neoscona benjamina Walchenaer, Lycosa sp., and Achaearanea porteri Banks; a scorpion, Vejovis sp.; phalangids (harvestmen, another epigeian form, and a blind species); hemiptera; cave crickets; pillbugs; and staphylinid beetles.

Ref: SSS and TSS files

WILLIAMS SURPRISE CAVE (SPIDER ROCK CAVE?)

Williamson County (# 12)

Round Rock 15' Quadrangle

Owner: Wayne Williams

Description: This cave may be the same as Spider Rock Cave, and since it is impossible to distinguish them on the basis of a poor description for Spider Rock Cave, they are tentatively considered synonymous. The entrance to Williams Surprise Cave is a shallow funnel-shaped sink that drops down under a 2' thick ledge into a crawlway that continues to slope downward for 20'. The fill at the bottom of the cave has left only a small crawlway entrance. The first room of the cave is a stoopway-crawlway and is the space between the fill and the ceiling, and can be negotiated almost all of the way around the sink, except for flowstone and breakdown which block the way. The fill fills the lower end of this room to the ceiling except for a crack on the north side, 2' long and barely 10" wide. Beneath this S-shaped crack there is a flowstone dome that descends to the north almost meeting the ceiling again but leaving another very narrow crack; however, the best passage is to the left over the wet, mud-slick dome which finally steepens and falls into the large room of the cave. This room is 60' long, 10' high, and 20' wide, descending gradually in an easterly direction to a duck-under. At the beginning of the room there are passages

that curve around the base of the break own slope. One to the right rises through impassible breakdown for 30', back to the first room. The one to the left is 20' long ending in formations. At the bottom of the dome, a passage leads back to the south, but is blocked by formations. The unknown passage could be negotiated for at least 20'. Just before the duckunder a passage back under the breakdown was not explored. Past the duckunder the cave continues as a crawlway-stoopway for about 30', finally ending in breakdown which may be removed to continue. The cave is alive and drips water even in the driest season. There are a few large formations in the cave, but the floor and walls are covered with countless spines and small rough formations that tear the clothes and bruise the knees. The cave was explored on September 7, 1963, by the following members of the Balcones Grotto: Tom Warden, Rodger Barnes, Bill and Nab Clayton, Noel and Lauren Roebuck, and L. W. Zschesche. Also visiting the cave were John Clayton and Clydette Townley.

Ref: Balcones Grotto files

UNNAMED CAVE

Williamson County (# 67)

Owner: Dr. W. W. Laubach

Round Rock 15' Quadrangle

Description: This cave is one of the largest in the state and by far the largest, with the exception of Natural Bridge Caverns, of any found along the eastern part of the Balcones Fault Zone. The general trend of the cave is north-south but individual passages form a very complex and confusing pattern. The entrance to the cave is by means of a 24" core hole drilled by the Texas Highway Department. The core is through solid rock for about 30' where it intersects the cave in about the center of a passage 20' high, 40' wide, and 260' long. To the south this passage is almost blocked by breakdown, but to the north it intersects another passage leading NW-SE. North from this junction both large passages soon end, one being solidly blocked by flowstone and the other partially choked by breakdown. The passage southeast of the junction soon enlarges to form the largest room so far found in the cave, 180' long, 30' high, and 70' wide. From the south end of this room a complex of passages lead to the Mud Room, which is actually a continuation of the big room, the low ceiling area in between having been filled with clay. The Mud Room is about 100' long, 40' wide, and about 12' high, and narrows to the south to form a passage averaging 10' wide and from 4'-8' high. This passage leads south through several rooms for about 400' to a complex area of passages and breakdown. Another section of large passage lies to the east of the Mud Room. This is a southern continuation of the passage hit by the core hole, and can be reached either by working through the breakdown to the south of the core hole or through a maze of mostly walking passages that lie between the core hole passage and the Mud Room. This section of the core hole passage is about 40' wide, 15' high, and 200' long. To the north the passage is blocked by breakdown and to the south exploration is stopped by a solid mass of flowstone. The outstanding formations of the cave are concentrated in the core hole passage, the north section having several large formations and the south section has formation areas at both ends. A great abundance of soda straws up to 3½' long, helictites up to 8" long, and much pure white, live flowstone makes this cave one of the most beautiful in Central Texas. The cave also contains some of the finest boxwork in Texas. The floor

of the cave is generally mud and clay-covered breakdown or clay covering solid rock. This has resulted in severe muddying of the areas of flowstone where it is necessary to cross the flowstone to reach other parts of the cave. One of the most complex caves in Texas exploration of the cave is not yet complete. The breakdown area to the north of the core hole can be by-passed, there are several poorly known breakdown crawls near the flowstone block at the end of the core hole passage, and at the extreme south end of the cave there are several unchecked leads. Because of its recent discovery it is not possible to include a complete report in this issue of the survey. A map of the cave is in process of being made and to date contains over a mile of passage. The total length of explored cave is probably in excess of 6,000'.

History: The cave was discovered in May, 1963, by the Texas Highway Department while drilling cores along a future highway alignment. Small cores revealed the presence of a cave under the foundations of a proposed bridge, so a 24" core hole was drilled into the cave to allow engineers to enter. The engineers examined and mapped a small part of the cave directly under the foundation area, and then closed the cave with a section of core. Word of the cave soon spread to local cavers and to Dr. Laubach. Although the highway department was quite reluctant to allow cavers to enter the cave the owner was quite friendly. Shortly before the 1963 Texas Speleological Association Convention in Georgetown difficulties were overcome and the cave was opened for exploration as a field trip for the convention. The cave was entered on November 3, 1963, by a large group of Texas cavers. Over 50 cavers entered, photographed, explored, and partially mapped the cave. On November 9-10 a return trip to the cave by a second large group saw the cave's mapped passage pushed over one mile. Mapping of the cave is being directed by Bill Russell. The future of the cave is uncertain at the moment. The only known entrance will probably be covered by the new highway. Attempts are underway to locate a new entrance and, although a filled sink is known to reach the cave it too appears to lie directly under the highway. At the present it is possible only to say that entry is guaranteed only until actual work is begun on the highway and the land becomes highway property.

Geology and Paleontology: The cave occurs in Cretaceous limestone, probably the Edwards Formation. It is east of and within a very short distance of a major fault of the Balcones Fault Zone. Numerous minor faults were observed in the cave. One in particular, with a throw of about three inches, has clearly occurred within very recent times, since it has cut through a flowstone layer about one inch thick. Other faults that have cut flowstone layers may be attributed to slumping, but a detailed inspection of each of them should be carried out. In the main passage north of the entrance, galena has been precipitated along open joints. The galena occurs in crystals up to 5 mm and is partially altered to limonite. One of the large breakdown cones in the north part of the cave contains numerous vertebrate skeletal remains which may be of paleontologic interest. Peccary (Tayassu sp.) and bear (Ursus sp.) have been tentatively identified. With its large accumulation of bones, outstanding examples of box work and differential solution, and its relation to the Balcones Fault Zone the cave is one of the more interesting in the state from a geologic standpoint.

Biology: A small biologic collection was made in the cave by James Reddell, John Porter, and Bill Russell on November 3, 1963. Further collections are planned for the near future. Fauna includes pillbugs, beetles (Agonum (Rhadine) sp.), cave crickets, harvestmen, and cave phalangids, millipeds (2 species), collembola, centipedes, and spiders. A tarantula found in the entrance room almost certainly fell in the core hole.

DOUBTFUL CAVES

ACHILLES CAVE (ACHILLES FLOP)

Williamson County (# 9a)

Georgetown 30' Quadrangle

Owner: Dr. Frederick C. Lowry

Description: According to Mr. Achilles, a previous owner, he had heard that this was a large cave but the entrance had been blocked by a former owner. Upon opening the rock-filled entrance this was found to be apparently a rumor. The total depth of the hole is about 3' and it is about 6' in diameter.

Ref: SSS files

CACTUS CAVE

Williamson County (# 14a)

Round Rock 15' Quadrangle

Owner: "Doc" Weir

Description: This small, 10' long, cave was filled because it was used as a den by animals.

Ref: SSS files

DISAPPOINTMENT ENTRANCE

Williamson County (# 5a)

Round Rock 15' Quadrangle

Owner:

Description: This is a filled 5' deep sink. It apparently was the entrance to a cave at one time.

Ref: SSS files

GAY'S CAVE

Williamson County (# 16a)

Round Rock 15' Quadrangle

Owner:

Description: This tiny cave is barely large enough to enter. It is about 5' long and 3' deep and is used primarily as an animal den.

Ref: SSS files

HEART OF TEXAS RANCH SINK

Williamson County (# 21a)

Round Rock 15' Quadrangle

Owner: Kouri Bros.

Description: A small sinkhole near a clump of trees to the south of the road just past the top of the first rocky hill, this sink is about 4' wide and 2' deep, with a hole leading downward too small to enter.

Bibliography: Widener, Donald L., ed. Texas Cave Survey, Vol. 1, No. 1, p. 3. Reprinted in Speleo Digest 1958, p. 1-317. Published by Pittsburgh Grotto, N.S.S. May, 1959.

Ref: TSS files

LEANDER ROAD CREVICE NO. 1

Williamson County (# 15a)

Round Rock 15' Quadrangle

Owner:

Description: This is a narrow crack too small to enter.

Ref: SSS files

LEANDER ROAD SINKS

Williamson County (# 12a)

Round Rock 15' Quadrangle

Owner:

Description: This is a group of six or seven sinks in a cluster. None are large enough to enter, but excavation might reveal a cave.

Ref: SSS files

LION'S HEAD CAVE

Williamson County (# 6a)

Round Rock 15' Quadrangle

Owner:

Description: This small hole seems to be the source of the travertine deposit which forms the Lion's Head. Other small cliff caves are nearby.

Ref: SSS files

REPLY #3 SINK

Williamson County (# 2a)

Round Rock 15' Quadrangle

Owner: D. D. Godwin

Description: This is a filled entrance to a cave located about 50 yards west of Lorfing's Unseen Rattler Cave.

Ref: SSS files

RUN-IN SINK

Williamson County (# 19a)

Georgetown 30' Quadrangle

Owner:

Description: A stream sinks into large rocks at the bottom of a shallow sink visible from the highway. These might be moved to enter a low passage.

Ref: TSS files

RUSSELL'S BAT-WELL SNAKE HOLE

Williamson County (# 1a)

Round Rock 15' Quadrangle

Owner: John Suddeth

Description: This is a 5' long, 3' wide, 5' deep sinkhole blocked by rocks. It is located about 200 yards northwest of Bat-Well.

Ref: SSS files

SAND CAVE (PARK CAVE)

Williamson County (# 7a)

Round Rock 15' Quadrangle

Owner: City of Georgetown (?)

Description: This small cave runs into the bank of the San Gabriel River for about 8'. It appears to be partially or entirely man-made, the purpose of which is not known.

Ref: SSS files

SHALLOW CAVE

Williamson County (# 20a)

Round Rock 15' Quadrangle

Owner: Mr. Nash; foreman: Joe E. Everett

Description: The cave is reported to be a small sink, 6' deep. It was investigated by Holmes A. Semken in June, 1954.

Bibliography: White, Patrick J. "Caves of Central Texas." The Caves of Texas, p. 64. Bulletin Ten of the National Speleological Society. April, 1948.
Widener, Donald L., ed. Texas Cave Survey, Vol. 1, No. 1, p. 2. Reprinted in Speleo Digest 1958, p. 1-317. Published by Pittsburgh Grotto, N.S.S. May, 1959.

Ref: DSS, TSS, UTG files

SKUNK CAVE

Williamson County (# 18a)

Round Rock 15' Quadrangle

Owner: Texas Highway Department

Description: This small cave has been destroyed by the reconstruction of the Leander Highway (FM 2243).

Ref: SSS files

SLIM'S FOLLY (SLIM'S FOLLY CAVE)

Williamson County (# 22a)

Austin 15' Quadrangle

Owner:

Description: A small sink south of the road to Mural Cave, digging was attempted but was abandoned after reaching a depth of about 6'. Several other sinks exist in this area, but none reaches over 4' in depth.

Bibliography: Widener, Donald L., ed. Texas Cave Survey, Vol. 1, No. 4, p. I.

Ref: TSS files

SPOTTED SINK

Williamson County (# 13a)

Georgetown 30' Quadrangle

Owner:

Description: This is a medium-sized sink with no open cave leading from it.

Ref: SSS files

TREASURE CAVE

Williamson County (# 17a)

Round Rock 15' Quadrangle

Owner: "Doc" Weir

Description: The entrance to the cave is filled. Attempts to excavate it, prompted by local legends of Indian treasure buried in a cave in the area, were halted by swarms of gnats living in the entrance.

Ref: SSS files

THREE-MILE SINK

Williamson County (# 8a)

Round Rock 15' Quadrangle

Owner:

Description: The entrance to this small sink is located directly across the road from Three-Mile Cave; local rumors that the two connect have no solid basis. The cave is entered by a 5' deep sink a few feet in diameter. A 1'-2' high, 5' wide passage extends over breakdown for about 15' before becoming too small.

Ref: SSS and TSS files

TINNEL CAVE

Williamson County (# 11a)

Georgetown 30' Quadrangle

Previous Owner: Joe Tinnel

Description: "The landowner reports that he enlarged a very small opening sufficiently to enable him to enter. He 'saw a long way back' and concluded it is a large cave; but he has not explored it farther." (White, 1948) "The DSS spent 4 hours in a pasture on Mr. Tinnel's ranch enlarging the same opening and saw about 2' back. If this were ever a cave, it is now completely filled with debris and would require a major excavation to unearth anything. Not worth the trip." (Widener, p. 5)

Bibliography: White, Patrick J. "Caves of Central Texas." The Caves of Texas, p. 63. Bulletin Ten of the National Speleological Society. April, 1948.
Widener, Donald L., ed. Texas Cave Survey, Vol. 1, No. 1, p. 5. Reprinted in Speleo Digest 1958, p. 1-313. Published by Pittsburgh Grotto, N.S.S. May, 1959.

Ref: DSS files

TRIANGLE RANCH CAVE (SCHNEIDER RANCH CAVE)

Williamson County (# 10a)

Georgetown 30' Quadrangle

Owner: Schneider

Description: A small cave of no particular note.

Ref: SSS files

WILLIAMS CAVE SINK

Williamson County (# 3a)

Round Rock 15' Quadrangle

Owner: Wayne Williams

Description: This very tiny sink is found 100 yards west of Williams Cave #1.
The sink leads to a crack in rock which appears to open into a cave.

Ref: SSS files

WUZA CAVE

Williamson County (# 4a)

Round Rock 15' Quadrangle

Owner:

Description: This small trash-filled sink may once have been a cave.

Ref: SSS files