

TEXAS SPELEOLOGICAL SURVEY

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THE CAVES OF BELL AND CORYELL COUNTIES

Edited by David McKenzie and James R. Reddell

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## TEXAS SPELEOLOGICAL SURVEY

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### THE CAVES OF BELL AND CORYELL COUNTIES

#### GEOLOGY

These two counties are in Central Texas and lie mostly on the Grand Prairie. Coryell County is entirely within caving country whereas the southeastern half of Bell County is on the Blackland Prairie of the Gulf Coastal Plain and contains no caves. The average annual rainfall is about 34 inches and the average annual temperature is 67°. Within the Grand Prairie the total relief is about 450 feet. Drainage follows a northwest-southeast trend. The main streams, from north to south, are the North Bosque River, Leon River, Cowhouse Creek, Lampasas River, and Little River. The damming of the Leon River and Cowhouse Creek has resulted in Belton Reservoir, most of which is in northern Bell County.

Except for the Quaternary alluvium along the streams all of the outcropping rocks in Bell and Coryell Counties are of Cretaceous age. The regional dip is very slight and toward the southeast. No major deformation is present except for the northern extension of the Balcones Fault Zone, which does not, however, affect the cavernous area.

The area is one of laterally interfingering lithologies, which tend to complicate the stratigraphy. The stratigraphy as it relates to caves is simple, however. All the caves herein discussed are contained in the Edwards Formation except two. Coon Pit and Kell Branch Shelter No. 1 are in the Comanche Peak Formation.

The oldest outcropping rocks belong to the Trinity Division. The principal formation within this group is the Glen Rose Formation. It is an alternating sequence of limestone, marl, clay, anhydrite and sand and its caverniferous possibilities are extremely slight.

The next higher division, the Fredericksburg, contains, in ascending order, the Paluxy, Walnut, Comanche Peak and Edwards Formations. The Paluxy sand thins to the south and pinches out before it reaches the Bell County line. The Walnut, clays and marls, thicken to the south and comprise about half the 325 foot total thickness of the entire group. The Comanche Peak, a nodular limestone and marl, thins to the south where the upper part of its stratigraphic level is taken by the Edwards. Because of its lithologic character and the abruptness of the change from this marly limestone to the dense, massive limestone of the overlying Edwards, its top marks the stratigraphic lower boundary of most of the caves.

The Edwards varies from 16 feet thick in northern Coryell County to over 100 feet thick in southern Bell County. Although the increase in thickness is steady over a large area, the surface of the Edwards is undulatory locally due to bioherms and reefs. It outcrops in a number of large patches in south-central and northwest Bell County and southeast Coryell County and caps isolated hilltops over most of the rest of Coryell County.

Over 2000 feet of Cretaceous rocks younger than the Edwards are present in Bell and Coryell Counties but none of them offer any strong potential for caves of any size.

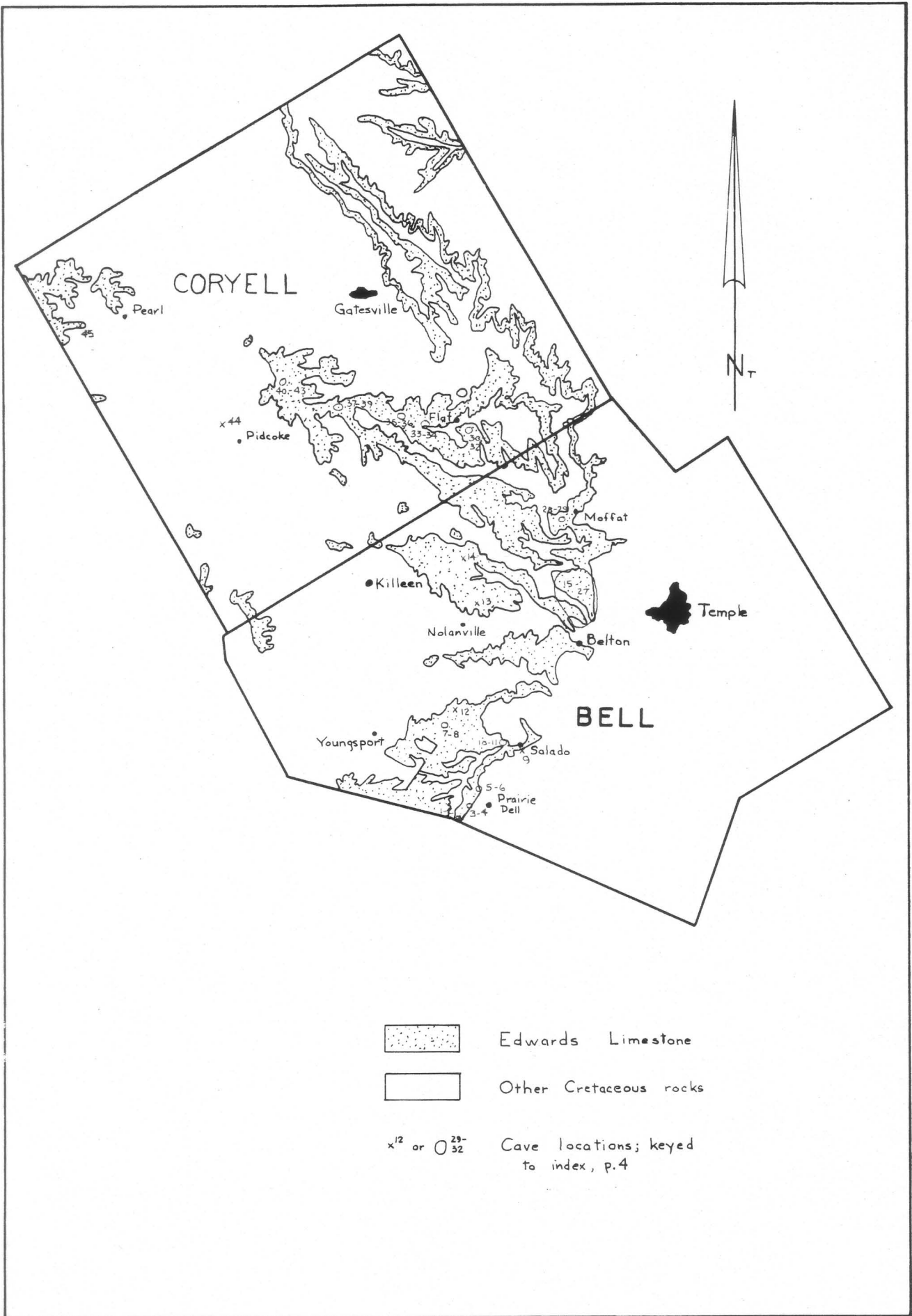
Most of the water for industrial and suburban use in the area is derived from surface reservoirs. However, the lower sands of the Trinity Division do supply the majority of water for the rural area. A very small percentage is taken from the Edwards Formation, which is the only aquifer of any

importance. A number of small springs issue from the Edwards, the Comanche Peak, and the Georgetown but their contribution to the total water supply is not great. The largest spring in the two counties, Salado Spring in southern Bell County, arises out of the Edwards. Its average flow is eight million gallons per day.

All of the caves in the area are rather small. The largest, Hill's Cave in southern Bell County, probably contains over 1000 feet of passage. The rest of the larger caves are in the same vicinity as Hill's. Almost all of the other known caves are in the Belton Reservoir area north of Belton in Bell County and on the Fort Hood Military Reservation in southern Coryell County. The Edwards-capped hilltops of northern and western Coryell County are the speleologic frontier of this area. Though the limestone is not very thick and the possibility of large caves is slight, there still remains a great deal of exploratory work to be done.

Perhaps the most significant aspect of this report is the presence of many locally famous caves and many caves which have been lost for fifteen years or more. Attempts to locate a number of caves in the Salado area reported by Patrick White in NSS Bulletin Ten failed until the recent field work in Bell County. The acquisition of land by Fort Hood also had resulted in the incorporation of many farms containing caves in the reservation; the result was changed roads, fences, and other landmarks. Many caves reported on the reservation are still unlocated and may remain so for many years. Only considerable intensive searching will complete the roster of caves for the reservation; and, indeed, for the entire area.

**Acknowledgements:** Acknowledgements are here given to the following biologists for their identification of invertebrates collected in the process of this survey: catopid beetles - Dr. Thomas C. Barr, Jr., University of Kentucky; tenebrionid beetles - Dr. Horace R. Burke, Texas A. & M. University; millipeds - Dr. Nell B. Causey, Louisiana State University; ants - Dr. Arthur C. Cole, University of Tennessee; spiders - Dr. Willis J. Gertsch, American Museum of Natural History; amphipods - Mr. John Holsinger, University of Kentucky; cave crickets - Dr. Theodore H. Hubbell, University of Michigan; fleas - Dr. William L. Jellison, Rocky Mountain Laboratory; ticks - Dr. Glen M. Kohls, Rocky Mountain Laboratory; asellid isopods - Dr. Harrison R. Steeves, III, University of Alabama Medical Center.



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5.	Kuykendall Cave	Salado	300'	25'	16
6.	Solona Ranch Cave No. 1	Salado	50'	30'	25
7.	South Salado Cave No. 2	Salado	30'	8'	26
8.	South Salado Cave No. 3	Salado	40'	6'	26
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**BELL COUNTY:**

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Little Blue Spring - Adam's Gold Mine-Lower Cave  
Millenium Cave - O'Connors' Shaft Cave  
North Salado Cave - Hill's Cave  
Phantom Cave - Hill's Cave  
Salado Cave - Stagecoach Inn Cave  
Solona Ranch Cave No. 2 - Kuykendall Cave

**CORYELL COUNTY:**

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Devil's Lane (?) - Devil's Cave

THE CAVES OF BELL COUNTY

ADAM'S GOLD MINE - LOWER CAVE AND UPPER CAVE (LITTLE BLUE SPRING)

Bell County (#1-2)

Georgetown 30' Quadrangle

Owner:

Description: Adam's Gold Mine is one of the most interesting and best-known places in Bell County. As the legend recounted below tells, it has been the scene of intensive mining in search of hidden treasure. For hundreds of feet around the caves shafts and tunnels have been dug, a channel about ten feet deep has been cut in an attempt to lower the water level in the lower cave in an attempt to explore its water-filled passages. For at least 1/4 square mile every possible cave opening has been dug into and every foot of loose dirt overturned. Little Blue Spring emerges from gravel in front of the cave entrance and from three holes at the base of a bluff about 40' high. The most northern of these holes leads into a stream passage about 40' long, with water up to six feet deep. After intersecting one surface shaft it siphons, but is obviously connected to the main stream system of the cave. The middle of the three holes runs directly under several holes in the floor of an upper level passage and also siphons after 60' or so. The third hole at the water level connects after about 20' to a crevice leading to the upper level. The upper level passage may most easily be entered by a hole about 15' up on the face of the bluff. A crawlway passage leads over several holes in the floor, across one of which a 6" x 6" board has been placed. About 80' from the entrance the passage becomes too small and appears to end. A joint-controlled passage to the right extends about 15' to a passage paralleling the first passage. This passage has been largely excavated and may have been almost entirely filled with clay before mining operations at the mine opened it via a 30' deep shaft to the surface. At the east end of the parallel passage two pits, one an artificial shaft, drop into the lower-level stream passage but siphon immediately. To the west the crawl extends about 30' to a point where the shaft intersects it on the left. From the shaft the passage continues as a 4'-6' high passage about 5' wide for an additional 30'. A ceiling drop occurs at this point and a low clay-filled crawl 1'-2' high extends for an additional 70' before filling with clay completely. The Upper Cave is obviously a part of this same cave system but is not now physically connected to it. Entrance to the cave is by means of a 30' deep artificial shaft, which may have followed a filled sink into the cave. A low crawl leads from the bottom of the shaft, in which a ladder has been placed, into a passage perpendicular to the crawl. To the right the passage extends as a 4'-7' high passage for about 70' before ending in breakdown associated with the edge of the bluff. About mid-way along the passage a shaft on the right side drops about 40' through the cave and to water. To the left the passage extends about 100' before ending. About 30' before the end the passage enlarges to about 10' wide and up to 12' high. This "room" is one of the few parts of the cave passage that has not been largely or entirely excavated by mining operations. About 30' before the end a low crawl leads down into a room about 2' high and 15' long. A crawl from this room is too small to negotiate. Other shafts in the vicinity of these two caves have not been investigated, but no caves can be seen in the top 20'. Others drop directly to water with no open caves leading from them. (See map, pages 8-9)

**Biology:** A small collection of invertebrates was made in the cave on July 27, 1963, by James Reddell and David McKenzie. One of the most interesting animals collected was the large fisher spider, Dolomedes scriptus Hentz. This is one of the largest spiders in the United States and lives in dark, swampy areas. It feeds by resting on top of the water, held up by surface tension, and catches tadpoles and small fish by plunging itself into the water as they pass below him. It was found in large numbers in all parts of the cave where shafts and pits reached water. Other spiders included Tetragnatha elongata Walckenaer, Gaucelmus augustinus Keyserling, Cicurina varians Gertsch and Mulaik, and immature specimens of a blind member of the genus Cicurina. Other animals collected included pillbugs, trichoniscid (?) isopods, and cave crickets. Frogs and fish were observed in the stream passage of the Lower Cave.

**Legends and History:** The following account of the legend and history surrounding the cave is told in its entirety. "It seems that a Spanish pack train of 20 burros laden with gold mined in the area and guarded by 20 soldiers began a northward trek to some destination now unknown. The party was attacked by Indians who drove them back. Fearing the capture of the gold, the captain of the company buried it on a hill beside what is now known as Little Blue Spring. What happened to the Spaniards is not known, but some years ago an Indian was bitten by a rattlesnake near Georgetown. He was taken to a doctor at Georgetown by George Pape who lived not far from the camp. The Indian recovered and in appreciation for saving his life he told Pape the above legend which he had heard many years before while he lived in East Texas. The Indian was a newcomer in the district but was able to tell of many landmarks of which he had heard, and described a rock under which he said that his grandmother had been buried. A party investigated the story and found a skeleton of a woman, presumably the grandmother, just where the Indian had said that it would be, but the gold was never found. There is hardly a 100 yard plot in the entire camp that does not show signs of treasure hunters for the buried gold. A corporation was formed in recent years and stock was sold to raise money for the search. This hill by Little Blue Spring was mined but no treasure was found. The only treasure apparent in the deal was the \$40,000 which passed from the pockets of the investors to those of the operators." (Johnson, 1958)

**Bibliography:** Johnson, Ronald. "Tales of Camp Tayuaya." In: Bell County History, p. 70. Prepared by Temple Junior Chamber of Commerce. University Supply and Equipment Co.: 1958.

Ref: TSS files

BELTON DAM CAVE

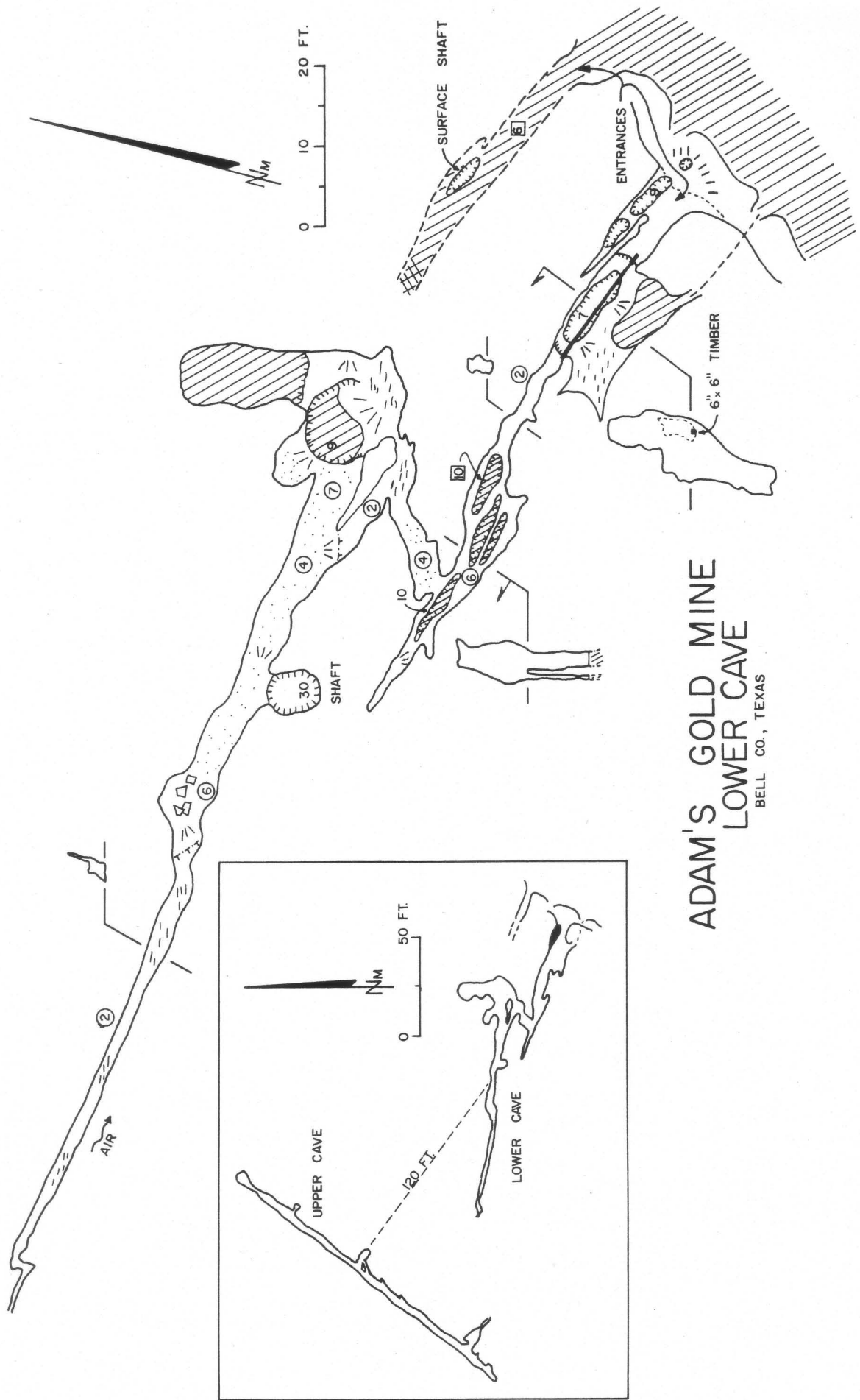
Bell County (#17)

Belton 15' Quadrangle

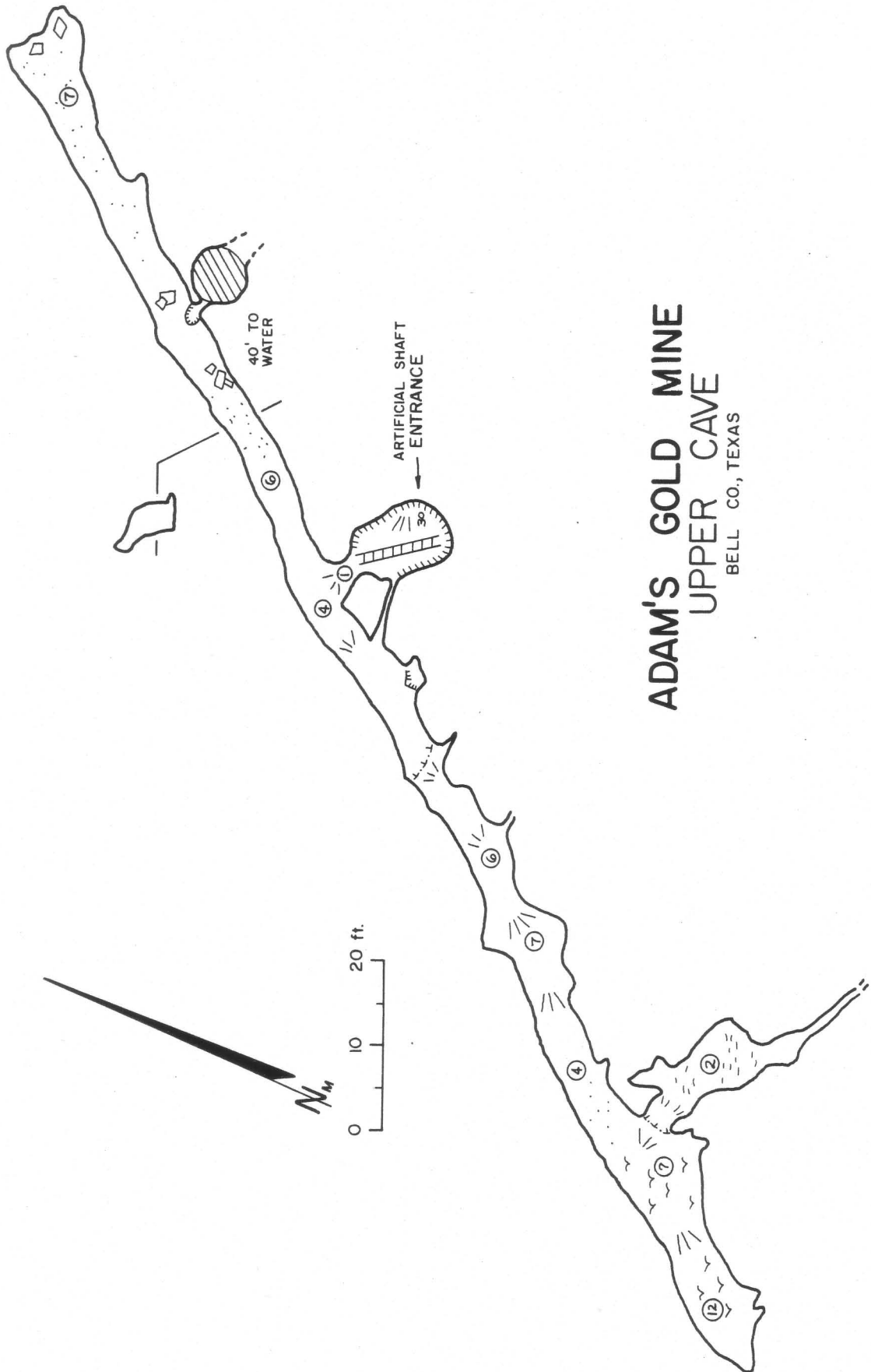
Owner: U.S. Gov't (Lake Belton)

**Description:** This cave was originally a shelter at the head of a ravine. During construction of Belton Dam rocks and dirt were bulldozed over the roof creating a wide crawlway about 50' long. The cave contains goat bones and a few cave crickets. It was visited by David McKenzie on Jan. 30, 1963.

Ref: TSS files



ADAM'S GOLD MINE  
 LOWER CAVE  
 BELL CO., TEXAS



**ADAM'S GOLD MINE**  
**UPPER CAVE**  
BELL CO., TEXAS

CEDAR CREEK CRACK CAVE

Bell County (#25)

Belton 15' Quadrangle

Owner: U.S. Gov't (Lake Belton)

Description: The entrance is 2.5' wide and 5.5' high and leads to a passage going straight back for about 45'. A second passage to the left goes for about 20' before it becomes too small. Fauna includes cave crickets and harvestmen. It was mapped by David McKenzie and Terry Raines in July, 1962. (See map, page 11)

Ref: TSS files

CEDAR CREEK SHELTER CAVE

Bell County (#26)

Belton 15' Quadrangle

Owner: U.S. Gov't (Lake Belton)

Description: This small cave extends from the back of a 10' deep shelter which is situated in a bluff on the west side of Cedar Creek. The cave is 34' long with the dimensions averaging 5' x 5'. It is near a well-known Indian camp and it appears that the first 10' of floor has been excavated. It was mapped on Jan. 22, 1963, by David McKenzie. (See map, page 12)

Ref: TSS files

CEDAR CREEK TUNNEL CAVE

Bell County (#27)

Belton 15' Quadrangle

Owner: U.S. Gov't (Lake Belton)

Description: The cave is entered by a 2' x 4' opening and ends after 42' in a second entrance 3' x 5'. It averages 1' high and 4' wide. Nearby is a well-known Indian camp from which many artifacts have been recovered. It was mapped in July, 1962, by David McKenzie and Terry Raines. (See map, page 11)

Ref: TSS files

COON PIT

Bell County (#24)

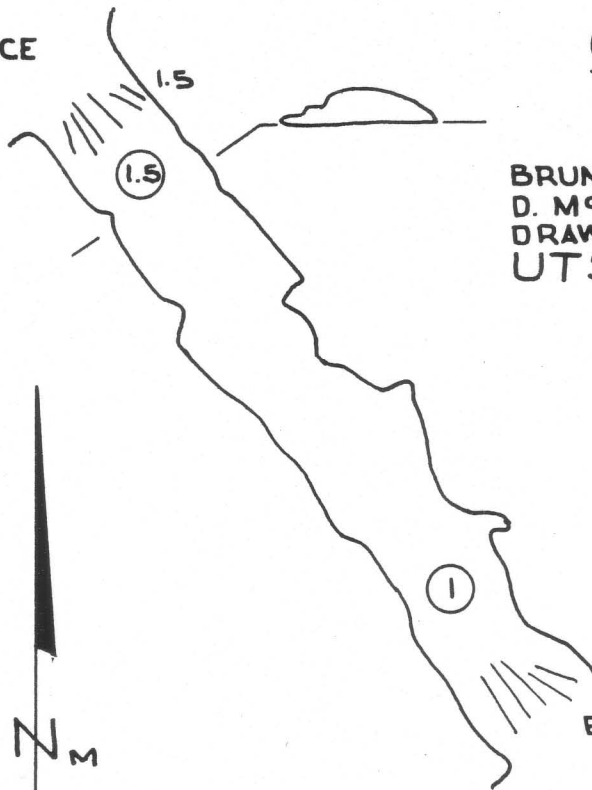
Belton 15' Quadrangle

Owner: U.S. Gov't (Lake Belton)

Description: The entrance to the cave, which can be seen from Lake Belton, is 1.5' wide x 3.5' high. It is situated in the face of a small vertical outcrop about 8' from the top. Instead of extending horizontally, the floor of the cave slopes steeply down to a small pit, the bottom of which is about 15' below the level of the entrance. The cave is formed in very loose nodular limestone, which is probably of the Comanche Peak Formation. A large raccoon was found "holed up" at the bottom of the cave. A sketch map was made by David McKenzie. (See map, page 13)

Ref: TSS files

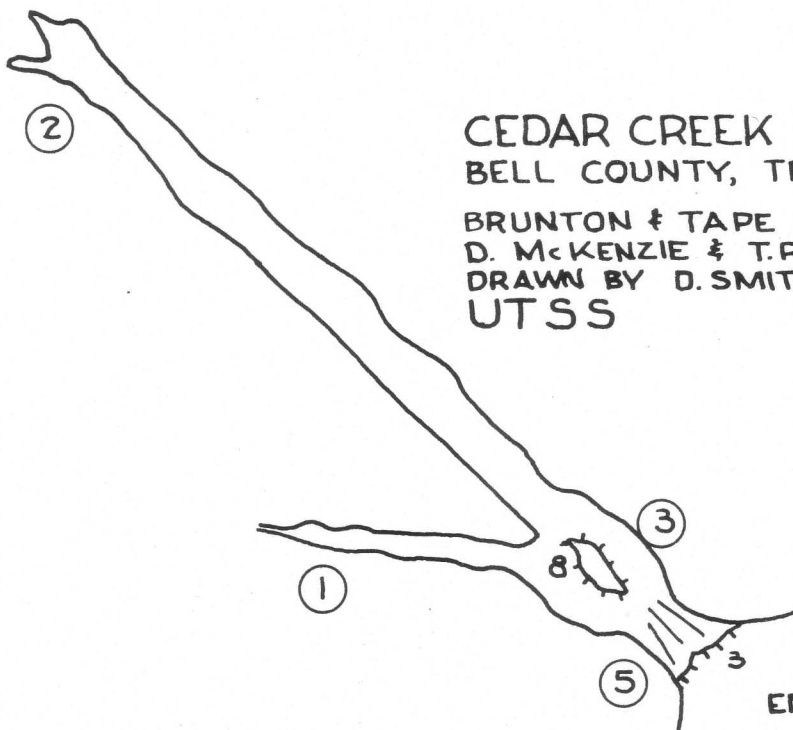
ENTRANCE



**CEDAR CREEK  
TUNNEL CAVE**  
BELL CO., TEXAS

BRUNTON & TAPE SURVEY BY  
D. MCKENZIE & T. RAINES, 7-17-62  
DRAWN BY D. SMITH, 8-27-62  
UTSS

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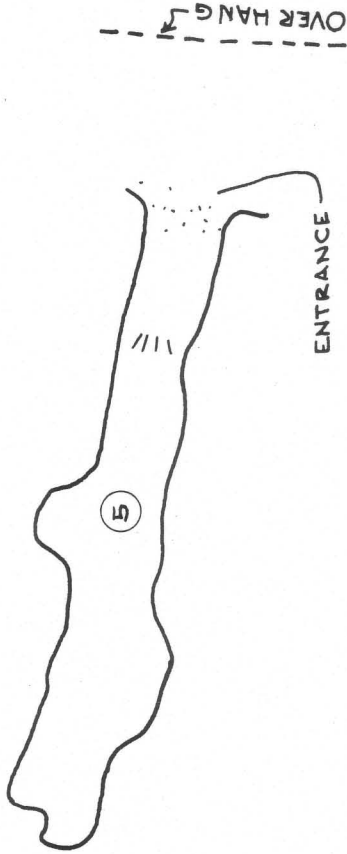
**CEDAR CREEK CRACK CAVE**  
BELL COUNTY, TEXAS

BRUNTON & TAPE SURVEY BY  
D. MCKENZIE & T. RAINES, 7-17-62  
DRAWN BY D. SMITH, 8-27-62  
UTSS

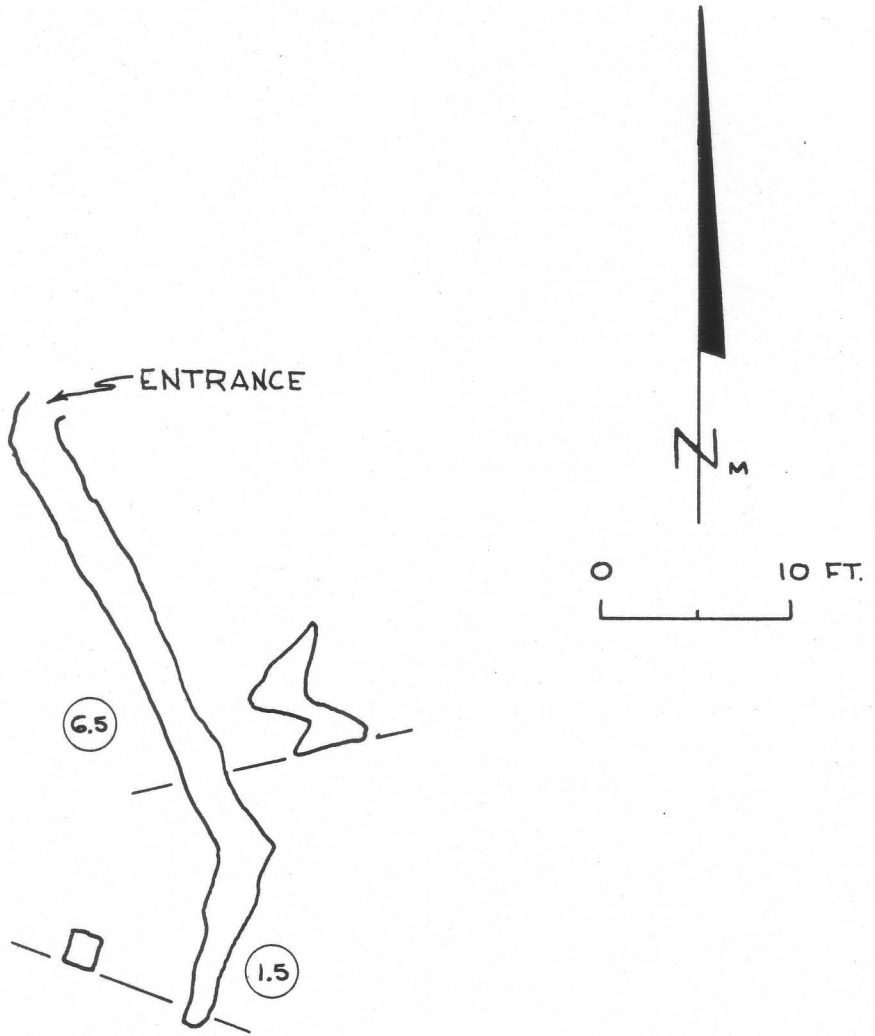
ENTRANCE



0 10 FT.



CEDAR CREEK SHELTER CAVE  
BELL CO., TEXAS  
COMPASS & TAPE SURVEY BY  
D. MCKENZIE 1963  
DRAWN BY b. SMITH, 1-22-63  
UTSS



DUN CANYON PORTABLE CAVE  
BELL CO., TEXAS

BRUNTON & TAPE SURVEY BY  
D. MCKENZIE & T. RAINES, 7-16-62  
DRAWN BY D. SMITH, 1-10-63

UTSS



DRIPPING SPRINGS CHIMNEY CAVE

Bell County (#22)

Belton 15' Quadrangle

Owner: U.S. Gov't (Lake Belton)

Description: This cave is a vertical solution cavity that completely pierces the roof of a shelter. The roof is approximately 18' thick. Although both entrances are about 1' x 2' long, the dimensions within enlarge to approximately 4' x 8'. The lower entrance is 8' above the floor of the shelter and about 15' from the edge of the overhang. Two springs issue at the back of this shelter. A sketch map was made by David McKenzie. (See map, page 13)

Ref: TSS files

DUN CANYON PORTABLE CAVE

Bell County (#18)

Belton 15' Quadrangle

Owner:

Description: The cave is in a large talus block that fell from the side of a bluff. The total length is 32' with an average ceiling height of 5'. Nearby is Dun Canyon Shelter. It was mapped in July, 1962, by David McKenzie and Terry Raines. (See map, page 12)

Ref: TSS files

HARRISON QUARRY CAVE

Bell County (#3)

Georgetown 30' Quadrangle

Owner: Mr. Harrison

Description: This cave is now completely destroyed by quarrying operations, but it was originally a fairly large and beautiful cave. Many formations taken from the cave are in the possession of the manager of the quarry.

Ref: TSS files

HILL'S CAVE (NORTH SALADO CAVE) (DIRT CAVE) (PHANTOM CAVE) Bell County (#10)

Georgetown 30' Quadrangle

Owner: Lewis Hill

Description: The entrance to the cave is a 15' in diameter sink and lies in the bed of a wide draw. The cave appears to flood completely after heavy rains. The sink is about 10' deep on the southwest side and can be climbed. The northeast side is about 15' deep and undercut. A small hole about 3' in diameter in the bottom of the sink drops a few feet into a room or passage about 4' high and 20' in diameter. Two passages lead from this room: one is a low crawl over and around large slabs of breakdown, while the other is somewhat larger. Both lead to a room about 40' in diameter and 8' high, with a large mound of breakdown dividing it into two parts. A 7' shelf at the end of the room leads into a 10' wide, 4' high passage which extends 60'. Here the ceiling lowers and after about 50' there is a turn to the right and then again to the left where a narrow

passage leads for about 40' before dropping into the Face Room. Several holes in the floor of this passage lead to a lower level crawl which is not negotiable for but a few feet in any distance. Directly back under the drop into the Face Room a steep slope leads down into a lower-level "room" about 6' high and 15' in diameter which is occasionally almost filled with water. The Face Room is about 50' long and 20' wide. At one end the ceiling is about 7' high but at the opposite end a mound of breakdown and flowstone has built up to within a few feet of the ceiling. The name is the result of a face carved on one wall. A crawl around the breakdown mound on the right side of the room leads to the southeast for about 50' before opening into a room about 50' long, 20' wide, and 10' high. Two crawls lead from this room. The lower crawl leads after about 30' to a small stream, while the upper follows directly above this. The two passages are connected occasionally by pits about 10' deep. The lower passage contains much mud and several inches of water, while the upper is fairly dry. Neither passage has been explored to its end, despite many attempts. It is estimated to be in excess of 500' long on each level. The cave has only been mapped to the Face Room. (See map, page 16)

**Biology:** Dr. Bassett Maguire visited the cave in 1958 and is reported to have collected amphipods. On July 26, 1963, James Reddell and David McKenzie made a collection of invertebrates in the cave. Only the spiders have been identified. These include three troglophiles, Cicurina varians Gertsch and Mulaik, Nesticus sp., and Achaearanea porteri Banks. Also taken was an unidentifiable spider of the family Linyphiidae. Other animals collected at this time and which are still under study include cave crickets, beetles (including staphylinid beetles), pillbugs, terrestrial isopods, collembola, and centipedes.

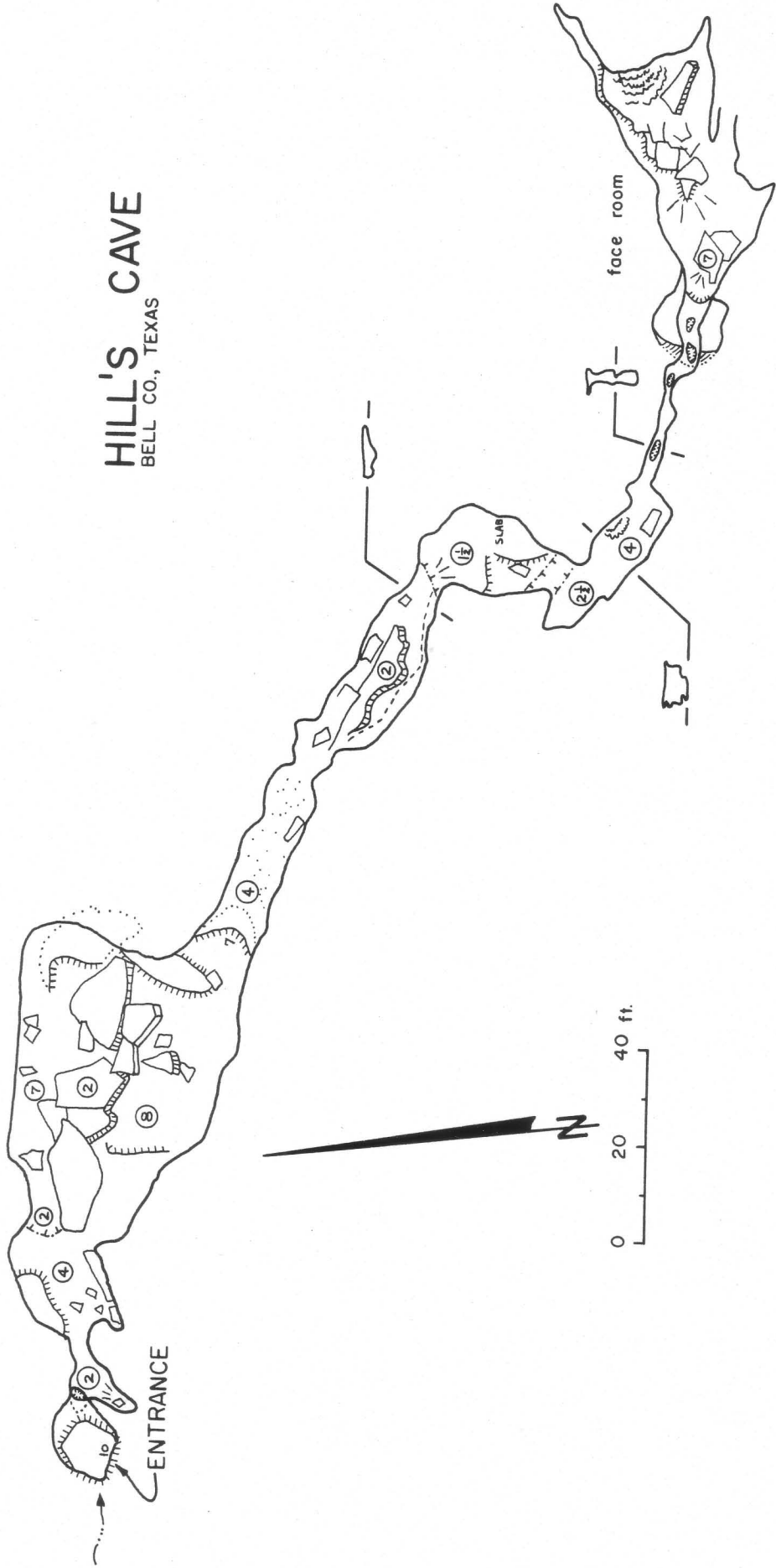
**History:** The cave was first reported by Patrick White in 1948, but only the entrance room was explored. It is locally well-known and much of the large portion has been visited many times. More recent explorations include one on December 3, 1955, by David Hannah, Fred Berner, Jamie Spence, Pat Purcell, Quincy Berlin, Joan Domaschk, and Bill Maples. It was visited in 1958 by Ken Baker, Bassett Maguire, Jacobson, Faberge, and Creel of the University of Texas Grotto. Intensive explorations of the crawl at the back have been made by Bill Russell, Tom White, and other U.T. Grotto members, one trip lasting 12 hours without reaching the cave's end. The cave was mapped on July 26, 1963, by James Reddell and David McKenzie. It was reportedly photographed and mapped by Bob Hudson in January, 1955, but apparently the map no longer exists.

**Bibliography:** Anonymous. "Little Known, Really, of Well-Known Caves." The Texas Caver, Vol. IV, No. 2, p. 6. Mar.-Apr. 1959.  
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Anonymous. "Trip to Phantom Cave." The Texas Caver, Vol. III, No. 1, p. 22. Jan.-Feb. 1958.  
White, Patrick J. "Caves of Central Texas." The Caves of Texas, p. 46. Bulletin Ten of the National Speleological Society. April, 1948.  
Wood, Bob. "News: Huaco Caver Society." The Texas Caver, Vol. IX, No. 8, p. 118. August, 1964.

Ref: TSS files

# HILL'S CAVE

BELL CO., TEXAS



HUNKA'S HOLE

Bell County (#19)

Belton 15' Quadrangle

Owner: U.S. Gov't (Lake Belton)

Description: The cave has two entrances in the side of a bluff, both on the same level and about 45' apart. A half-circular passage connects the two entrances and has a passage about half-way through which goes up for 23' and then back for 8'. The cave was excavated by high school boys for a Science Fair Project. Eight arrowheads were found. Fauna includes harvestmen and a few cave crickets. It was mapped in July, 1962, by David McKenzie and Terry Raines. (See map, page 17)

Ref: TSS files

JUBILEE SPRINGS CAVE

Bell County (#28)

Belton 15' Quadrangle

Owner: Warren Lawson

Description: The cave is a 17' deep pit averaging 5' in diameter. At least six toads of brown and white coloration were seen among the loose rocks that compose the floor. It was visited by David McKenzie on January 5, 1963.

Ref: TSS files

KAISER CAVE

Bell County (#13)

Nolanville 7.5' Quadrangle

Owner: Ned Kaiser

Description: The cave is entered by a 10' x 16' sink dropping 11'. A passage to the north immediately opens into a 12' in diameter room that has a second entrance 1.5' in diameter opening in the ceiling. The passage continues for 70' as 5' x 10' and then narrows to 1' and ends after 40'. A second passage to the south goes for 100' as 6' x 12' and then becomes a crawl for 73' before narrowing to 1' x 1' and becoming impossible to negotiate. A Little Brown Bat was observed in the second passage and three raccoons in the first passage. It was mapped in July, 1962, by David McKenzie and Terry Raines. It was first visited by cavers and reported in 1957 by Bill Russell. (See map, page 18)

Ref: TSS files

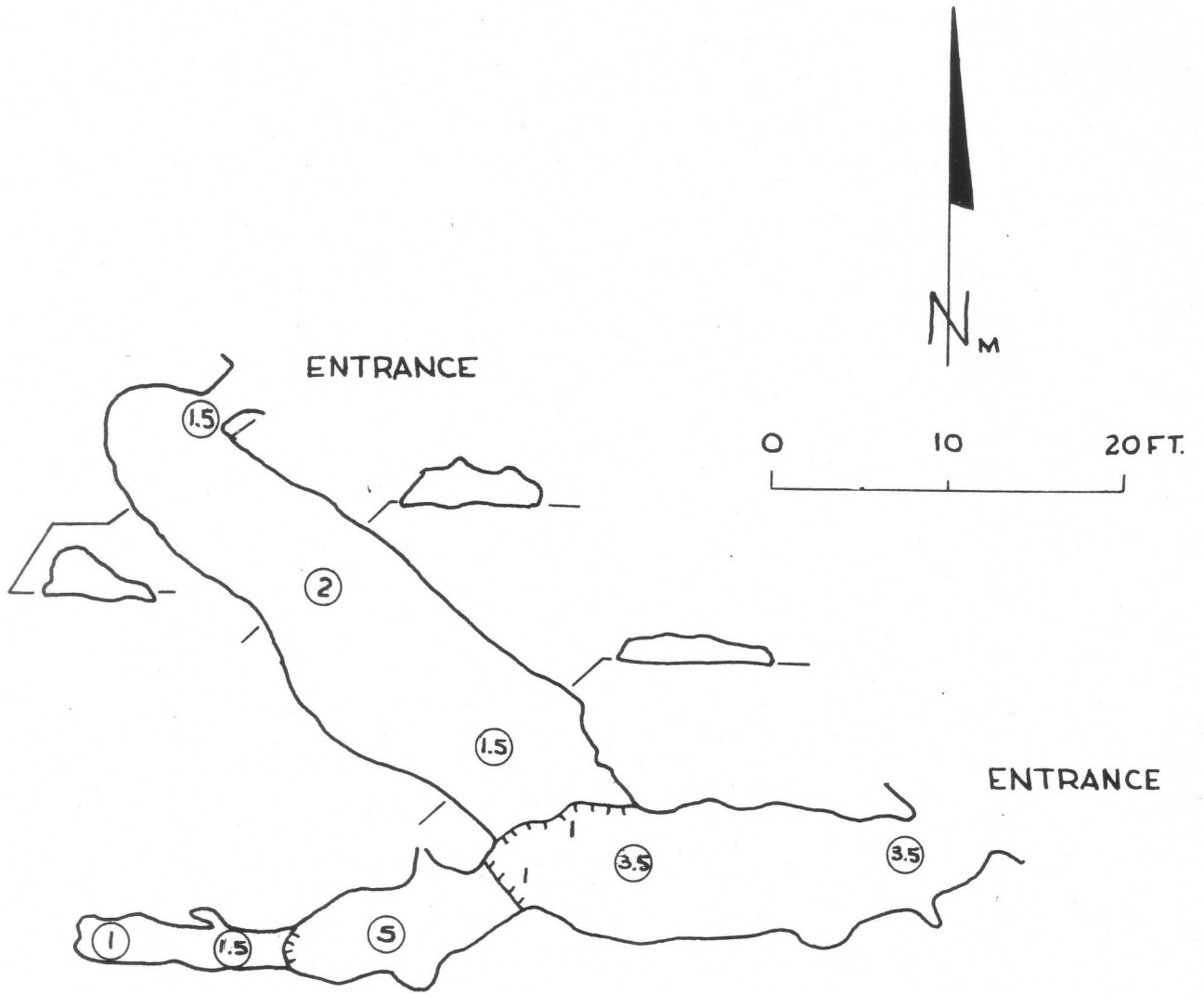
KUYKENDALL CAVE (SOLONA RANCH CAVE NO. 2)

Bell County (#5)

Georgetown 30' Quadrangle

Owner: Solona Ranch; Foreman: Floyd Gibbs

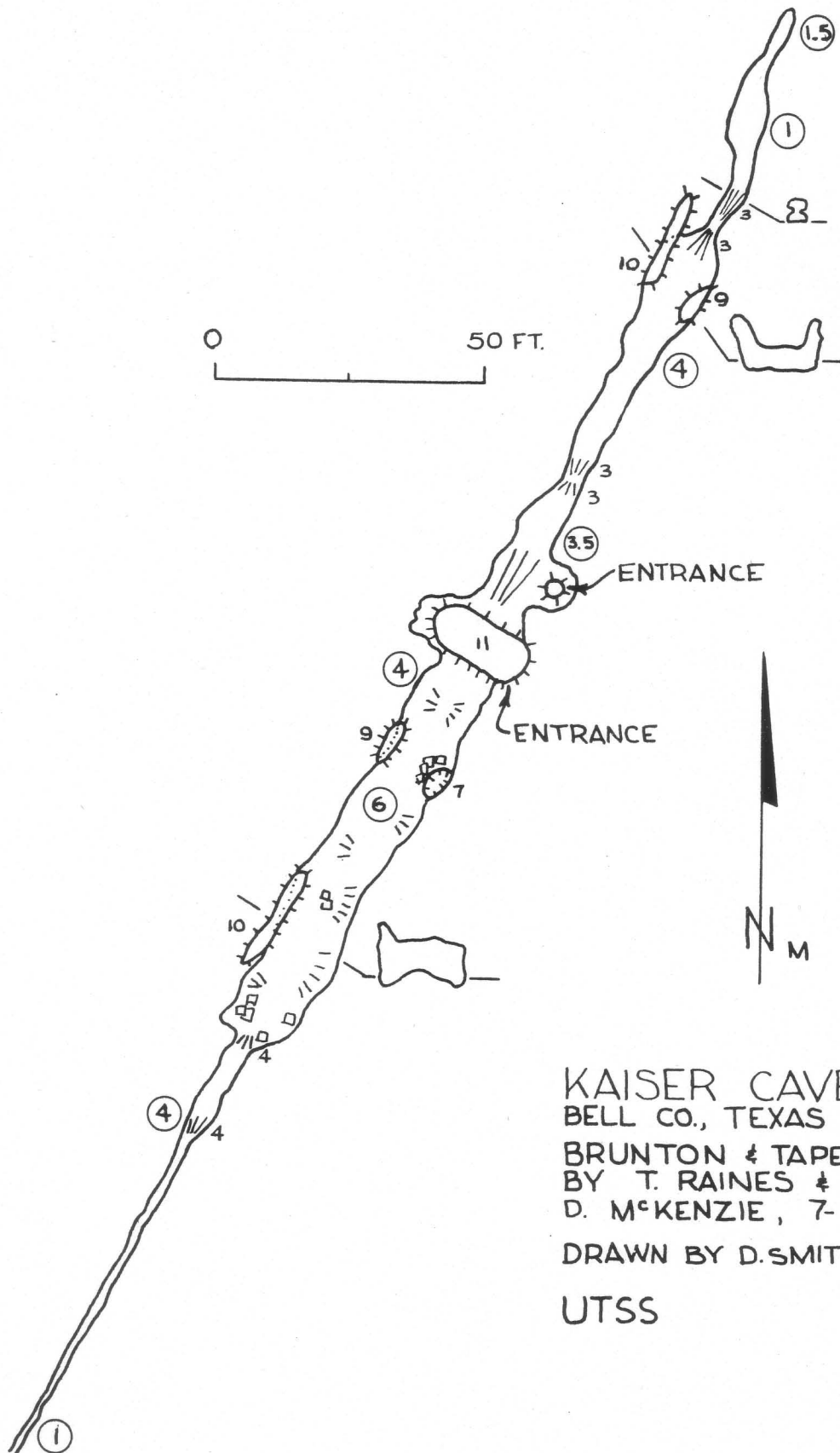
Description: The entrance to the cave is 3' in diameter. To the south it extends for 30' and slopes downward to a point 100' from the entrance. Here the ceiling is 12' high and, in 1952, there was a colony of about 5000 bats roosting in it. The known length of the cave is about 300'. There are several small grottoes off to one side of the main passage which are coated with spines of crystals which make crawling unpleasant. The total depth of



HUNKA'S HOLE  
BELL COUNTY, TEXAS  
BRUNTON & TAPE SURVEY BY  
T. RAINES & D. MCKENZIE, 7-16-62

DRAWN BY D. SMITH, 8-18-62

UTSS



KAISER CAVE  
 BELL CO., TEXAS  
 BRUNTON & TAPE SURVEY  
 BY T. RAINES &  
 D. MCKENZIE, 7-18-62  
 DRAWN BY D. SMITH, 8-17-62  
 UTSS

the cave is not over 25'. The temperature is in excess of 80° as a result of poor circulation; it is also very dry. Besides bats, the fauna includes millipedes, crickets, and beetles. The cave was discovered in the fall of 1951, at which time it was on the Warick Ranch. It was reported to be filled in 1958, but this has not been verified.

Ref: Bob Hudson

KUYKENDALL SINKHOLE

Bell County (#29)

Belton 15' Quadrangle

Owner: C.V. Brown

Description: The cave is a 30' vertical pit with its dimensions of 5' x 8' remaining uniform from top to bottom. Goat and deer carcasses and tin cans due to recent dumping has likely lessened the cave's original depth. About 100' northwest of the entrance (in the direction of the joint along which the cave is formed) are three small holes. Warm air issued noticeably from one of these when they were visited in December, 1962.

Ref: TSS files

MILLER SPRING CAVE NO. 1

Bell County (#15)

Belton 15' Quadrangle

Owner:

Description: The cave follows a joint back into the side of a bluff. It is 46' long and has an entrance 5' x 3'. It was mapped in July, 1962, by David McKenzie and Terry Raines. (See map, page 20)

Ref: Terry Raines

MILLER SPRING CAVE NO. 2

Bell County (#16)

Belton 15' Quadrangle

Owner:

Description: The entrance is 1.5' high and 2' wide and extends 26' to a room 15' in diameter and 1.5' high. Fauna includes many cave crickets and a few harvestmen. Mapped in July, 1962, by David McKenzie and Terry Raines. (See map, page 20)

Ref: Terry Raines

MORGAN POINT CAVE

Bell County (#20)

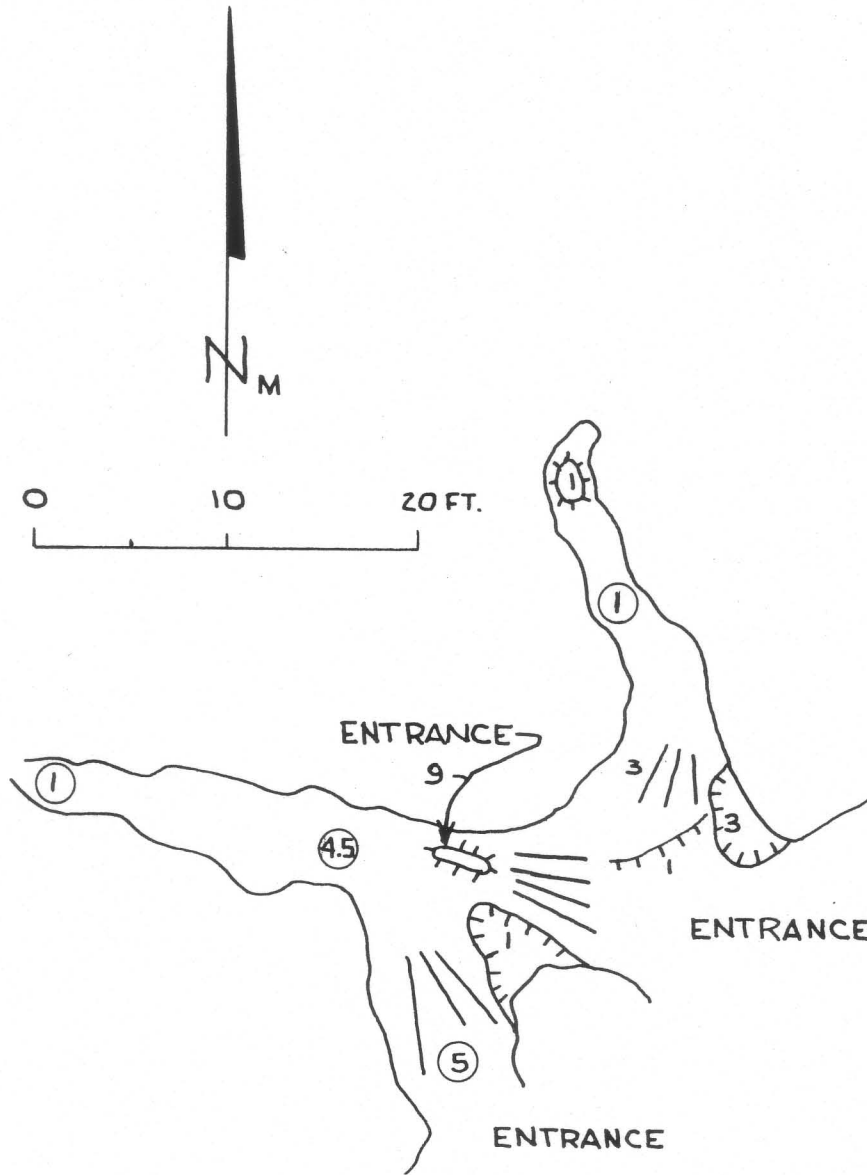
Belton 15' Quadrangle

Owner: U.S. Gov't (Lake Belton)

Description: The cave has three entrances; a crack widened to 1' x 3' on top of the bluff and two in the side of the bluff, 5' x 5' and 10' x 6'. A crawl in the north side of the cave ends after 24' while one to the south ends after 35'. The floor of the cave is 9' below the top of the bluff. It was mapped in July, 1962, by David McKenzie and Terry Raines. (See map, page 21)

Ref: Terry Raines





MORGAN POINT CAVE  
 BELL CO., TEXAS

BRUNTON & TAPE SURVEY BY  
 T. RAINES & D. MCKENZIE, 7-16-62  
 DRAWN BY D. SMITH, 8-18-62

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NOLAN CREEK CAVE

Bell County (#14)

Owner: U.S. Gov't (Fort Hood Military Reservation)

Description: Nolan Creek Cave is one of a very few caves in the county known to contain streams. A crevice-like sink 7' deep provides entrance to the dry portion of the cave - a passage 75' long and 10'-15' wide. The ceiling height does not exceed 4' but the unusual cross-section shows a pronounced dip of the smooth, slightly convex room. The strike is parallel to a bluff approximately 50' from the cave entrance. From the southwest end of the dry passage a low bedding-plane crawl continues as 15' wide with a four-inch deep, slow-running stream covering the floor. At the point where the stream is first encountered it sinks into a narrow crevice. Upstream the passage was explored for about 40' to a gradual lowering of the ceiling. The cave stream emerges as a large spring situated at the foot of the bluff about 40' below and 200' west of the entrance of the cave. The spring is a deep pond with water running from crevices in its bottom; it is about 40' in diameter and a stream runs from it to the north to eventually enter Nolan Creek. In March, 1963, James Reddell and David McKenzie mapped the cave. A flint knife was discovered in an alcove near the entrance. (See map, page 23)

Biology: Fort Hood soldiers once captured a large number of rattlesnakes found hibernating in the cave. On March 9, 1963, James Reddell and David McKenzie made a small collection of invertebrates. Spiders taken in the cave have been identified as Cicurina varians Gertsch and Mulaik and Achaearanea porteri Banks, both of which are common troglophiles in Central Texas. Cave crickets from the cave have been identified as Ceuthophilus secretus Scudder. Fauna still under study includes centipedes (Lithobiidae), beetles (Staphylinidae) and collembola. Pillbugs and a centipede of the family Scutigerae (?) were not collected. Frogs were observed in the cave stream in large numbers but were not collected.

Ref: TSS files

O'CONNORS' SHAFT CAVE (MILLENIUM CAVE)

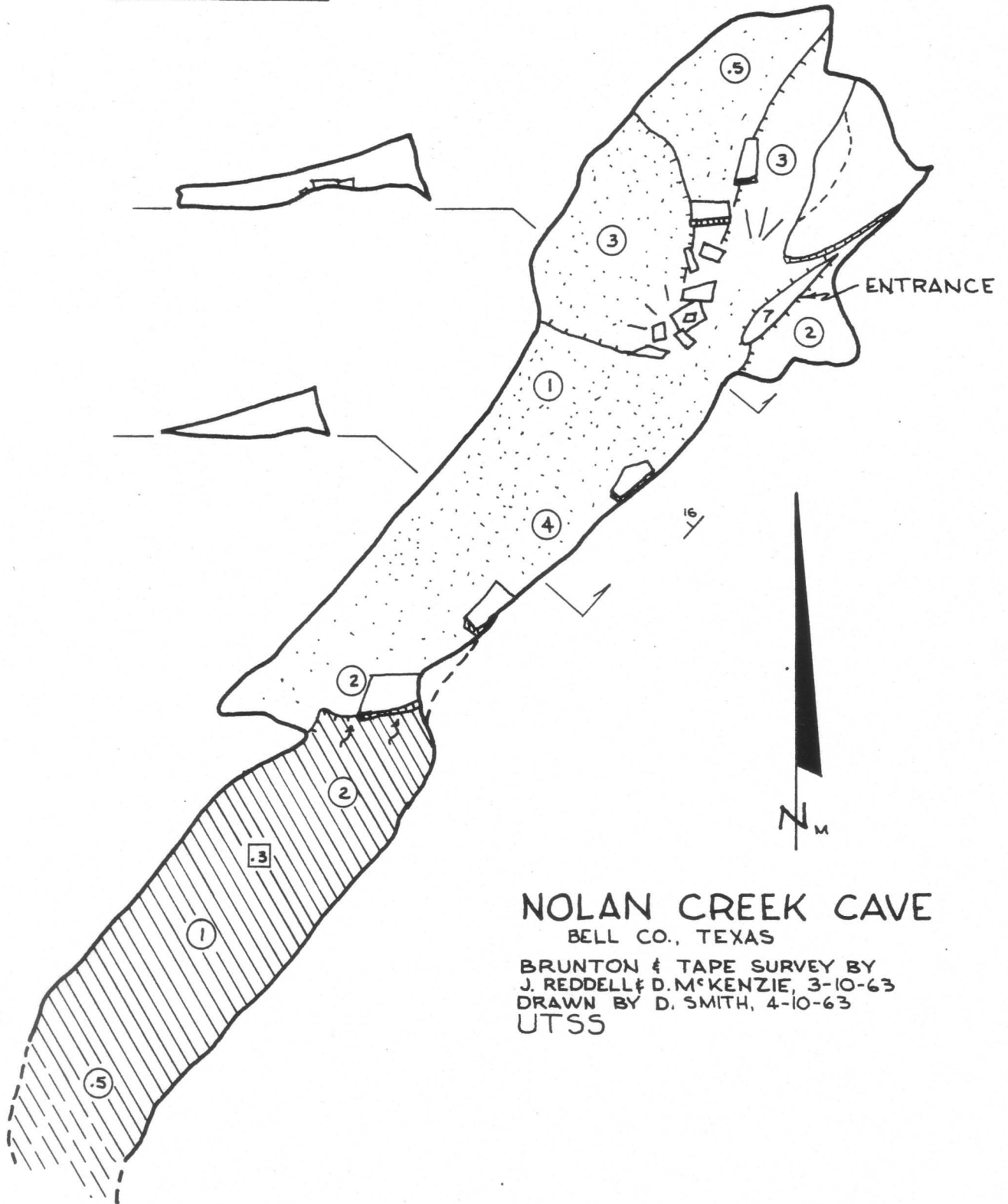
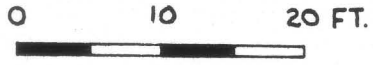
Bell County (#21)

Belton 15' Quadrangle

Owner:

Description: The entrance is a drilled shaft dropping down 20'. At the bottom a passage goes for 52' before branching, one branch extending 34' while the other ends after 29'. The floors and walls are highly dissolved, resembling a sponge, and have pure white crystals and one-half inch helictites growing on them. The Corps of Engineers drilled this shaft and two others nearby to see whether it was feasible to build a dam at this site. Because of the numerous caves in the area it was decided to locate the dam about a mile from the original site. The cave was mapped by David McKenzie and Terry Raines in July, 1962. (See map, page 24)

Ref: Terry Raines



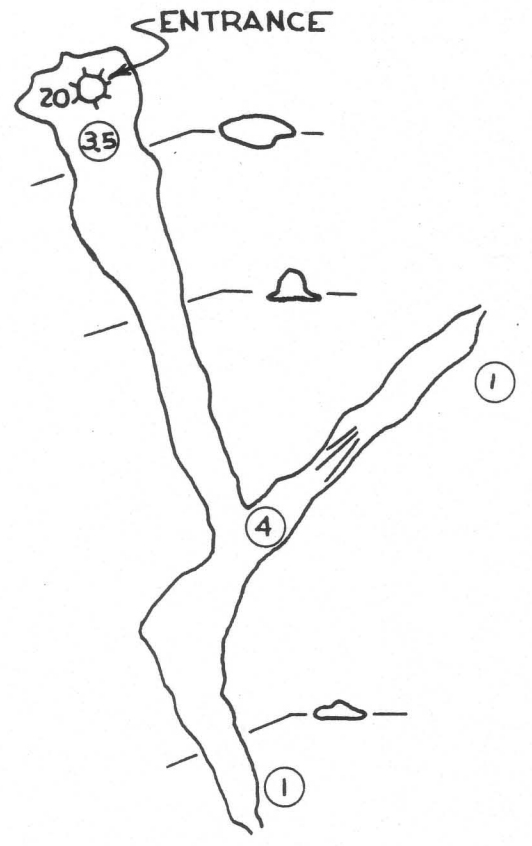
# NOLAN CREEK CAVE

BELL CO., TEXAS

BRUNTON & TAPE SURVEY BY  
J. REDDELL & D. MCKENZIE, 3-10-63  
DRAWN BY D. SMITH, 4-10-63  
UTSS

23

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O'CONNOR'S SHAFT CAVE  
BELL COUNTY, TEXAS  
BRUNTON & TAPE SURVEY BY  
T. RAINES & D. MCKENZIE, 7-17-62  
DRAWN BY D. SMITH, 8-17-62  
UTSS

POST OAK CAVE

Bell County (#11)

Georgetown 30' Quadrangle

Owner:

Description: The cave is in a heavily wooded area bordering the road west of Salado. A thick-trunked oak grows near the entrance which is only 10' beyond the fence-line. From the 8' long, 5' deep sink a shallow room extends south, toward the road, and is 30' long, 10' wide, and 3' high. A raccoon retreated into a small passage at the back when the cave was explored.

Ref: TSS files

SOLONA RANCH CAVE NO. 1

Bell County (#6)

Georgetown 30' Quadrangle

Owner: Solona Ranch; Foreman: Floyd Gibbs

Description: The cave is a 30' sink with a rotten ladder in it. One crawl goes for about 50. No other passages lead from the cave.

Ref: Bob Hudson

SOUTH SALADO CAVE

Bell County (#4)

Georgetown 30' Quadrangle

Owner: Harrison

Description: The entrance to the cave is located in the wall of a long-abandoned quarry. It is about 20' below the surface and about 10' above the floor. The entrance is about 10' wide and 4' high and partially obscured by large slabs of rock which have fallen from the wall of the quarry. The cave follows a strong joint in the limestone and this has resulted in a trench in the floor along which, at times, it is necessary to crawl. The passage, however, is wide and meandering, having dissolved out along a prominent bedding-plane or possible contact between two formations. It is essentially one passage 10'-30' wide and 1'4' high sub-divided into several "rooms" by formations and by slabs of thin, platy breakdown which necessitate very difficult squeezes against the ceiling. The first sixty or so feet of the cave is covered throughout by a thin film of water and shallow meandering pools. About 120' from the entrance there is a shallow pit which leads to a lower-level crawl, but which ends after a very short distance. It is also possible in other places to crawl down through breakdown on the floor, but no passages as such exist other than the main one. Certainly the most distinctive thing about the cave is the abundance of formations. The floor is covered almost everywhere with extremely abrasive calcite crystals, making crawling torture after a few feet. Other formations also abound in the form of small stalactites, columns, etc. Little of the cave, except near its end, is not covered with formations or crystals. The total length of the cave is about 400', it ending by becoming too small. Much slabby breakdown and clay appears near the end. The cave may best be described in the phrase used by its recent explorers, "The most beautiful cave we will never go back to." The cave was originally reported by Patrick White in NSS Bulletin Ten, but was only rediscovered on March 9, 1963, when

it was visited by James Reddell and David McKenzie of the University of Texas Grotto. At that time isopods and collembola were observed and a specimen of the rare tick, Ixodes conepati Cooley and Kohls, was collected.

Bibliography: White, Patrick J. "Caves of Central Texas." The Caves of Texas, p. 46. Bulletin Ten of the National Speleological Society. April, 1948.

Ref: TSS files

SOUTH SALADO CAVE NO. 2 (HODGES RANCH CAVE NO. 1)

Bell County (#7)

Georgetown 30' Quadrangle

Owner: Hodges

Description: This and the following caves were first reported by Patrick White in 1948. They were not relocated until they were explored by David McKenzie in 1963. The entrance is a 5' x 8' long sink in a large cleared pasture. A short slope drops 8' to the perimeter of a single chamber approximately 30' in diameter and 6' high. The dry, dusty room contains remnants of formations. A large rattlesnake was killed in the entrance.

Bibliography: White, Patrick J. "Caves of Central Texas." The Caves of Texas, pp. 46-47. Bulletin Ten of the National Speleological Society. April, 1948.

Ref: TSS files

SOUTH SALADO CAVE NO. 3 (HODGES RANCH CAVE NO. 2)

Bell County (#8)

Georgetown 30' Quadrangle

Owner: Hodges

Description: The cave is located about 200' southwest of South Salado Cave No. 2. It is a dry, silt-floored room whose entrance is a 2½' hole in the ceiling. It is 40' long, 15' wide, and 3'-4' high. An elongated trench has been dug in the floor, which is only about 6' below the surface. The cave is locally referred to as an "old gold mine."

Bibliography: White, Patrick J. "Caves of Central Texas." The Caves of Texas, pp. 46-47. Bulletin Ten of the National Speleological Society. April, 1948.

Ref: TSS files

STAGECOACH INN CAVE (SALADO CAVE)

Bell County (#9)

Georgetown 30' Quadrangle

Owner: Stagecoach Inn

Description: The cave has electric lights and steps for the benefit of customers at Stagecoach Inn. It is about 30' deep and 50' long. There is a passage leading back beneath the entrance which is about 50' long. The cave has a gravel floor placed there by the owner. A five-foot deep pit near one wall contains a stream about 3' deep, and which is used by the owner as his water supply.

Biology: David McKenzie collected two species of milliped in the cave on August 17, 1963. These are the troglobite, Cambala speobia (Chamberlin), and the common houthouse milliped, Oxidus gracilis (Koch). Dr. Bassett Maguire has collected a rhabdoceol of the genus Stenostomum in the cave.

Bibliography: White, Patrick J. "Caves of Central Texas." The Caves of Texas, p. 46. Bulletin Ten of the National Speleological Society. April, 1948.

Ref: TSS files

STUBBLEFIELD CAVE

Bell County (#12)

Georgetown 30' Quadrangle

Owner: "old Shaddick place"

Description: This cave has not been visited by members of the Texas Speleological Survey, and since the only reference to it is to be found in the Frontier Times, that article is quoted almost in its entirety. Only sections not directly related to the cave are omitted. "The story of a cave lost in Bell County has been told by the Belton Journal... Here is the story of Bell County's Lost Cave: J.C. Stubblefield, grandson of the late J.S. Stubblefield, after a search of many years for a cave discovered over fifty years ago by his grandfather last Sunday found the long-lost cavern. The cave is located on the old Shaddick place about four miles northeast of Youngsport in a country seldom visited by man. When J.S. Stubblefield discovered the cave soon after the civil war, he went only a short distance into the first room, where he discovered a large quantity of ammunition and guns. That section of the country was occasionally frequented by desperadoes and various bands of outlaws and cattle restlers, and the elder Stubblefield, supposing the owners of the property, judging by the age of same, to have been early day outlaws, who would never return, took his find for his own. A few weeks later Mr. Stubblefield was waylaid and shot, supposedly by a member of the gang which stored a part of its spoils in the cave. Before dying he told his son, J.L. Stubblefield, about the cave and tried to give him the location, but the son was never able to find the cavern. J.C. Stubblefield, from directions and markers told him by his father, after a ten-year search at odd times, found the lost cave Sunday. The entrance to the cavern was discovered in the side of a canyon, in a clump of trees, briars and thorny undergrowth. A large flat rock, similar to those on every side, covered the door. Leaving nothing unturned to locate the cave, Mr. Stubblefield he moved this rock as he had many others in a vain effort to find the old hide-hole and to ascertain what it contained. Great was the surprise of the party when they saw the unmistakable entrance to the cave, which they believed to be one they sought. Rains of more than fifty years had washed away the steps leading down to the first room, making the first landing some twelve feet from the entrance, with a 45 degree descent to reach it. The sharp descent didn't puzzle the party much as the risk of being snake-bitten when the landing was reached, as the rays from their carbide lanterns disclosed three enormous rattlers coiled at the foot of the old stairway, ready to receive the callers. The snakes were killed with rocks and all of the party descended. The first room appeared to be about 95 feet long by 20 to 45 feet wide with a ceiling from 8 to 15 feet high. In this room the party found many evidences of habitation years ago, in the way of improvised

seats, tables of stone, shelves, fragments of ammunition cases, etc., but no guns or ammunition. Passing into another room to the north of what might be termed the reception room or auditorium, the party found what the elder Stubblefield had not found, for lack of proper light or fear of snakes and wild animals--the remains of Indians or cliff dwellers. How many human beings perished here or how many bodies were deposited here for burial could not be ascertained, as the party were not so interested in finding skeletons as in collecting guns, coins, Indian or cliff dweller relics. In this room Mr. Stubblefield picked up a few human bones, but was careful not to include in his collection any skulls. Entering room No. 3, the party considered itself well paid for the time and energy spent when it discovered a number of articles which in all probability had belonged to a race long extinct. The collection included a crude earthen pot, which showed signs of having at one time been used for a cooking vessel; a large strung bow and arrow, a buckskin valise or traveling bag, containing some two dozen arrow heads of various sizes... A large tommyhawk was also found in this room. The most valuable find of the party was a rock tablet picked up in room No. 3, covered with crude writings and drawings of a character different from any yet found in this country... Mr. Stubblefield and party left the cave after exploring for four hours. He plans to provide food and water and better lights for another trip to the ancient hang-out in the near future, at which time he believes more rooms will be discovered, and possibly more relics of a race that was."

Bibliography: Anonymous. "Long Lost Cave Found in Bell County." The Frontier Times, Vol. 7, No. 12, pp. 561-562. Sept., 1930.

Ref: TSS files

UNNAMED CAVE

Bell County (#23)

Belton 15' Quadrangle

Owner:

Description: A 3' in diameter entrance on a bluff overlooking Lake Belton leads as a crawl for 8' to a room large enough to stand in. At the top of the room a small hole leads at floor level to a dome-room 10'-15' high and 6' in diameter. It was explored by David McKenzie.

Ref: TSS files

#### DOUBTFUL CAVES

CEDAR CREEK CRAWL

Bell County

Belton 15' Quadrangle

Owner: U.S. Gov't (Lake Belton)

Description: This "cave" is similar to Cedar Creek Shelter Cave, but is only 20' long.

Ref: TSS files

KUYKENDALL CREVICE

Bell County

Belton 15' Quadrangle

Owner: C.V. Brown

Description: This is reported by A.T. Jackson as being "a crevice-like entrance to a so-called cave." He also states, "just inside the narrow entrance is a carving of a human head, wearing a feather headdress, and another of a small conventionalized human." (Jackson, p. 298) The crevice is located near Kuykendall Sinkhole. It is now too filled with debris for it to be explored beyond the petroglyphs.

Bibliography: Jackson, A.T. Picture-Writing of Texas Indians, p. 298. University of Texas Publication, No. 3809. March, 1938.

White, Patrick J. "Caves of Central Texas." The Caves of Texas, p. 47. Bulletin Ten of the National Speleological Society. April, 1948.

Ref: TSS files

SOLONA RANCH CAVE NO. 4

Bell County

Georgetown 30' Quadrangle

Owner: Solona Ranch; Foreman: Floyd Gibbs

Description: A vertical sink six feet in diameter and five feet deep leads to a small room beneath a ledge. No passages lead from the room.

Ref: Bob Hudson

SURVIVAL CAVE

Bell County

Belton 15' Quadrangle

Owner: U.S. Gov't (Lake Belton)

Description: This is a large shelter located about 10'-20' from the top of an 80' high bluff. It may be reached only from above. There are reported to be tunnels extending from the back of the shelter and possibly a second entrance to the surface above the shelter. It is used by military personnel for practice of survival techniques.

Ref: TSS files

UNNAMED CAVE (41-39C6-3)

Bell County

Quadrangle:

Owner:

Description: A 5' wide entrance extends back into the cliff 18' as a 3' high passage. It was examined during an archeological survey of the area by Robert L. Stephenson.

Ref: U.T. Arch. Dept.

SHELTERS

DUN CANYON SHELTER

Bell County

Belton 15' Quadrangle

Owner:

Description: The shelter is at the head of Dun Canyon; it is 100' wide, 30' high, and 20' long. It was once so smooth that it was used as a roller-skate rink, but the floor is now covered with rocks and silt.

Ref: Terry Raines

KELL BRANCH SHELTER NO. 1 (AYCOCK SHELTER) (41-39D4-12) Bell County

Belton 15' Quadrangle

Owner: E.C. Aycock

Description: The shelter faces east and is a semi-circle 109' long at the point of overhang. The maximum depth is 25' and the maximum height is 5'. The floor gradually rises to the ceiling at the back and on both sides. "The face of the cliff slopes outward above the ceiling line for an additional 10' and a porch, largely of talus debris, extends from the entrance for 12', then drops sharply to the stream below. At 64' from the north end, a stalagmite had formed, completely blocking the entrance for 20', and building up the floor immediately back of it almost to the level of the ceiling. The outer formation is of a soft porous nature, holding much debris while the part protected within the shelter is very hard and has formed fantastic rock pools and terraces in miniature. No test work was made to determine if midden materials were present underneath this formation. Only that section of the shelter from 20 feet to 55 feet from the north end and extending into the shelter for 15 feet was suitable for permanent human habitation, due to the lack of sufficient ceiling clearance. It was an ideal place for blocking the entrance with poles and skins for temporary protection against the wintry winds... The present surface of the occupied portion of the shelter was fairly level except for a gradual rise from point 40 feet to the rear and to the north end. Excavation revealed that the original floor or bed rock was uneven, rising from a depth of 32 inches at the front, by a series of irregular step-like ledges, until it emerged near the rear and at the north end. An occasional ridge protruded above the level of the series of steps. There resulted a considerable variation in the depth of the midden deposit and in the depths of the burials which were with two exceptions, all placed directly upon the bedrock. The midden deposit had been carried into the shelter and was dark with ash and charcoal and the contact line between this black soil and the upper 6 inches of white limestone slackings, which held no ash or charcoal, was very sharp and definite." (Watt, p. 9) (See map, page 32)

Archeology: Cultural remains recovered from the shelter included patterns of matting left under the burials, flint projectile points, flint scrapers, flint knives, flint drills, manos, hammerstones, antler, bone needles-awls, bone flaker, ivory scraper, shell spoons. Also found were 32 burials. The cultural affiliations of the people inhabiting the shelter may be summarized as follows: "Both late Edwards Plateau Aspect

and Central Texas Aspect (Toyah Focus only) represented. The bulk of the midden deposit, however, appears to belong to the Edwards Plateau Aspect. Only a few of the burials were associated with artifacts--projectile points in all cases. Some of the points were very likely the cause of death. The cultural affiliations of the burials are difficult to determine, but presumably represent individuals of both aspects." (Suhm, 1960) Charcoal has been dated and is estimated to be more than 10,000 years old.

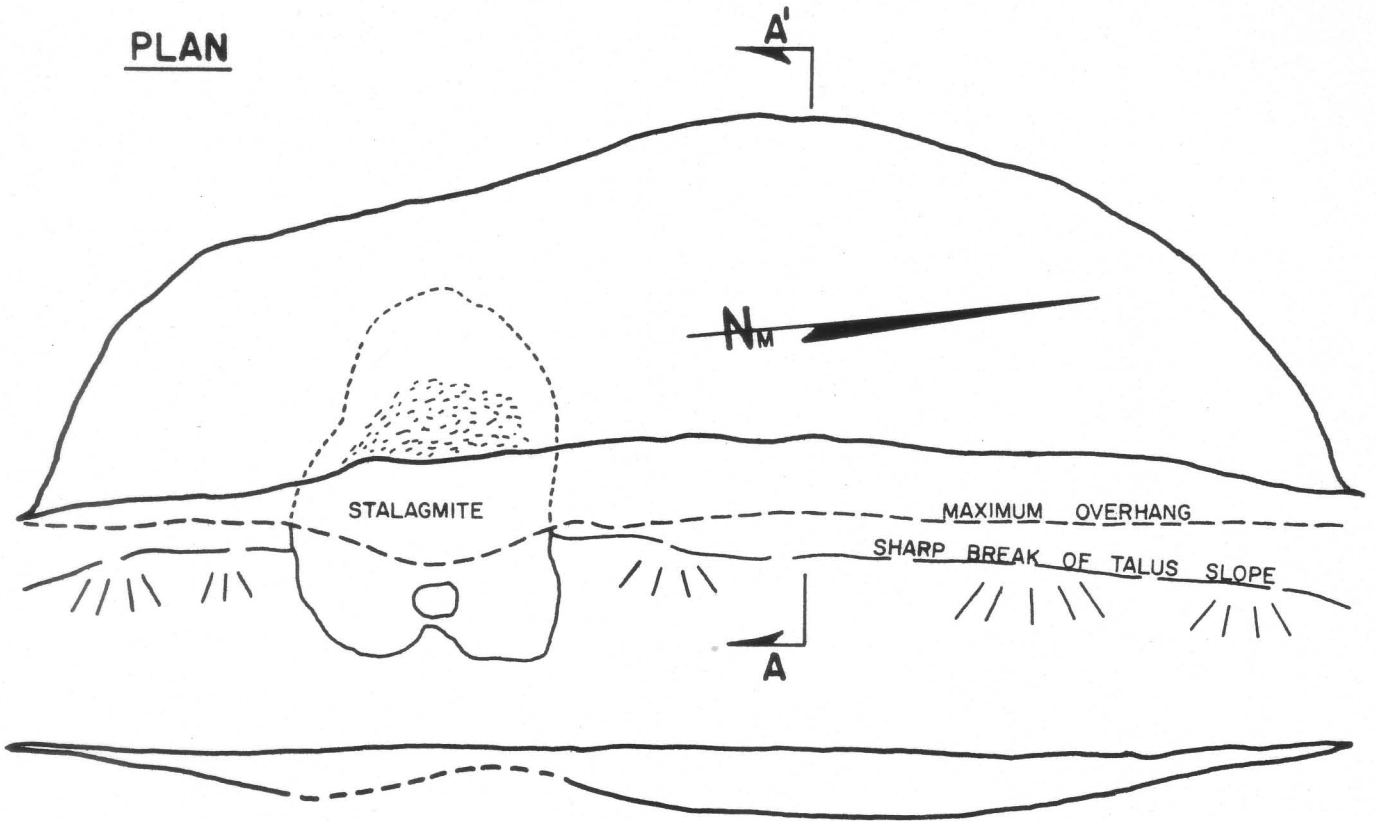
History: "In August, 1935, Frank Bryan, Sam Horne and the writer made a trip over the area, during which data for Mr. Bryan's article on the geology of the area was obtained. In October, Mr. Horne and the writer mapped the stream and area and platted the shelter." (Watt, pp. 7 and 9) The shelter was excavated from November, 1935, to January, 1936.

Paleontology: The bones of a rabbit, buffalo, a recent deer, Odocoileus cf. texanus, pocket gopher, Geomys sp., and coyote, Canis cf. microdon (?) were recovered. Shells, apparently used as food, include the following species: Amblema gigantea, Amblema plicata perplicata, Lampsilis fasciate claibornensis, Lampsilis teres, Proptera purpurata, Quadrula forsheyi, Quadrula verrucosa, and Quadrula houstonensis.

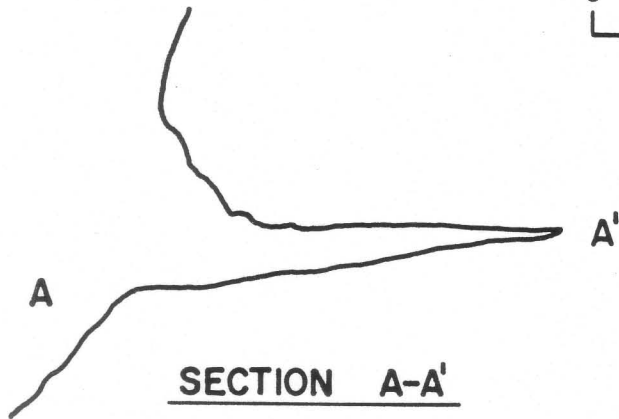
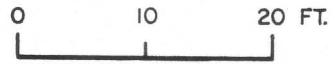
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- Russell, F.B. "Archeology in Bell County." Ibid, No. 2, pp. 49-50. March, 1936.
- Suhm, Dee Ann. "A Review of Central Texas Archeology." Bulletin of the Texas Archeological Society, Vol. 29, p. 90. 1958 (Printed 1960)
- Turner, Fred A. "Chronic Arthritis in the Early American Indian in Central Texas." Bulletin of Central Texas Archeological Society, No. 2, pp. 35-38. March, 1936.
- Watt, Frank H. "New Radiocarbon Dates from Texas: Two Radiocarbon Dates from the Central Brazos Valley." Bulletin of the Texas Archeological Society, Vol. 31, p. 327. 1930 (Printed 1931)
- Watt, Frank H. "A Prehistoric Shelter Burial in Bell County, Texas." Bulletin of Central Texas Archeological Society, No. 2, pp. 4-27. March, 1936.
- White, Patrick J. "Caves of Central Texas." The Caves of Texas, p. 47. Bulletin Ten of the National Speleological Society. April, 1948.
- Williams, Walter J. Letter to Frank H. Watt, dated February 29, 1936. Bulletin of Central Texas Archeological Society, No. 2, p. 27. March, 1936.

Ref: TSS files

PLAN



ENTRANCE VIEW



**KELL BRANCH SHELTER**  
BELL COUNTY, TEXAS

# 1

WILLISON SITE (41-BL-4)

Bell County

Bland 7.5' Quadrangle (?)

Owner: R.T. Willison

Description: This rockshelter faces east; it is 140' wide at the mouth, and extends into the cliff-face for 18'. It is about 15' high. It was excavated by A.T. Jackson and artifacts removed included arrowpoints, spearheads, and scrapers. Many human bones were also found.

Ref: U.T. Arch. Dept.

UNNAMED SHELTER

Bell County

Belton 15' Quadrangle

Owner:

Description: There is a continuous series of large shelters, some up to 50' deep, extending along a bluff about 1/2 mile long just across Lake Belton from Temple Lake Park. Many of the shelters are connected to each other only by narrow ledges. All are formed along the same bedding-plane.

Ref: TSS files

UNNAMED SHELTER (41-39D7-4)

Bell County

Quadrangle:

Owner:

Description: A 30' wide shelter extends back into the cliff-side for 8'. It is about 3' high. Located on the Leon River it was examined in 1949 by Robert L. Stephenson.

Ref: U.T. Arch. Dept.

UNNAMED SHELTER (41-69C6-1)

Bell County

Quadrangle:

Owner:

Description: This is a large shelter excavated by A.T. Jackson in about 1934. It contained 54 burials.

Ref: U.T. Arch. Dept.

UNNAMED SHELTER (41-BL-40)

Bell County

Quadrangle: Belton 15'

Owner:

Description: This shelter faces west and is located in the Belton Reservoir. It is 100' wide and extends 10' back into the cliff-face; it is 4'-8' high. It was examined in 1962 but has not been excavated.

Ref: U.T. Arch. Dept.

UNNAMED SHELTER (41-BL-42)

Bell County

Belton 15' Quadrangle

Owner:

Description: A 100' wide, 15' deep, 4'-8' high shelter, it is located just up the slope from Unnamed Shelter (41-BL-40). It was examined in 1962.  
Ref: U.T. Arch. Dept.

UNNAMED SHELTER (41-BL-48)

Bell County

Belton 15' Quadrangle

Owner:

Description: This shelter is located north of Belton. It is 50' wide, 6'-8' long, 5' high, and faces east. It was examined in 1962 but has not been excavated.

Ref: U.T. Arch. Dept.

UNNAMED SHELTER (41-BL-50)

Belton 15' Quadrangle

Owner: U.S. Gov't

Description: Located on the north side of Belton Reservoir this is a 50' wide, 10' long shelter, about 10' high. It was examined in 1962.

Ref: U.T. Arch. Dept.

UNNAMED SHELTER (41-BL-51)

Bell County

Belton 15' Quadrangle

Owner: U.S. Gov't

Description: This is a 50' wide, 10' deep shelter, about 10' high. It is located in Belton Reservoir and was examined in 1962.

Ref: U.T. Arch. Dept.

UNNAMED SHELTER (41-BL-54)

Bell County

Belton 15' Quadrangle (?)

Owner:

Description: This is a shelter 60' wide, extending back into the bluff for 10'. It shows signs of human habitation and was examined in 1962. It is located in a bluff overlooking the Leon River.

Ref: U.T. Arch. Dept.

UNNAMED SHELTER (41-BL-58)

Bell County

Belton 15' Quadrangle (?)

Owner: Tom Simmonds

Description: An open site lies on a slope between a bluff and Stampede Creek, with numerous potholes. The site runs up into a draw to a moderate-size rockshelter at the end of the draw. Blades, points, bifaces, choppers, and pottery were found. It is dated as Archaic-Neo-American. It was examined in 1962.

Ref: U.T. Arch. Dept.

#### RUMORS

BOTTOMLESS WELL

Bell County

Owner:

Description: W.I. Burnham "also heard tales of the 'bottomless well' a mile or so east /of Stillhouse Hollow/ and covered with logs and brush for more than 50 years. This well was being dug by J.T. Ellis and another man when their drill disappeared in the earth. The men rounded up all the rope in the neighborhood and lowered a weight into the hole. Still no bottom was found and another legend was born." (Temple Junior Chamber of Commerce, 1958)

Bibliography: Temple. Junior Chamber of Commerce. Bell County History, p. 80. University Supply and Equipment Co.: 1958.

Ref: TSS files

THE CAVES OF CORYELL COUNTY

BROKEBACK CAVE

Coryell County (#40)

Shell Mountain 7.5' Quadrangle

Owner: U.S. Gov't (Fort Hood Military Reservation)

Description: Brokeback Cave is situated one-half mile east of Shell Mountain Bat Cave. It is one of the more notable caves on the reservation and is appropriately named. The very thin overburden along its 300' length has collapsed to form four imposing entrances, each about 10' deep and containing several medium-sized oak trees. The passage dimensions are normally 20' wide and 7' high. Breakdown has accumulated near the entrances, but elsewhere the floor is of dry silt. The cave may be of archeological or paleontological interest for a dug depression at the west end of the cave shows a considerable depth of fill. Another feature is the delicate spongework of rudistids and other fossils displayed in domes and alcoves in the westernmost part of the cave. Ceiling stains indicate that the cave once harboured bats. Like other caves on Shell Mountain it has been frequented by military personnel, as is evidenced by ration tins and other refuse in and about the cave entrances. The cave was mapped in March, 1963, by James Reddell, David McKenzie, and Jim Arnold. (See map, page 37)

Biology: A small collection of invertebrates was made in the cave on August 17, 1964, by James Reddell, David McKenzie, and Bill Russell. None of this material has been studied as of this date, but it includes cave crickets, snails, tenebrionid beetles, collembola, several species of spider, pillbugs, ants, roaches, mites, and a reduviid bug.

Ref: TSS files

CAVE SPRINGS CAVE (CAVE AT CAVE SPRINGS)

Coryell County (#31)

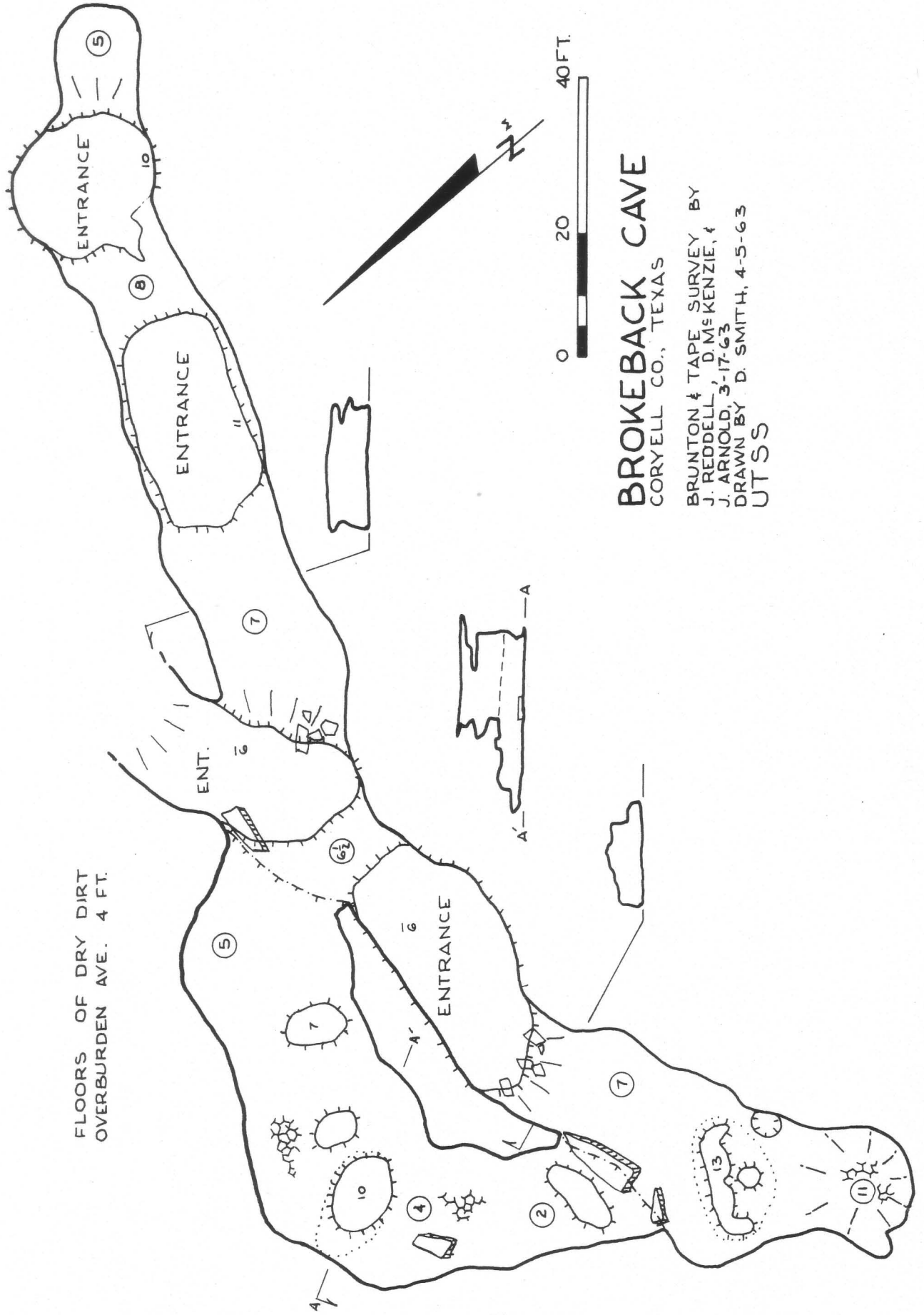
Post Oak Mountain 7.5' Quadrangle

Owner: U.S. Gov't (Fort Hood Military Reservation)

Description: This cave, locally known by its name, is a straight crawlway at least 100' long. It extends from the back of a shelter as a 2' x 4' high passage, but after 50' it becomes increasingly narrow and difficult. Beyond 75' it has not been crawled out, although it continues as a negotiable squeezeway for at least 25' more. The cave is damp and rocky, although clean and containing some grey flowstone deposits. It issues water after rains and some airflow was noted when it was visited. Cave Springs, now dry, is situated about 10' in front of the shelter. It was mapped by David McKenzie on January 2, 1963. (See map, page 38)

Ref: TSS files

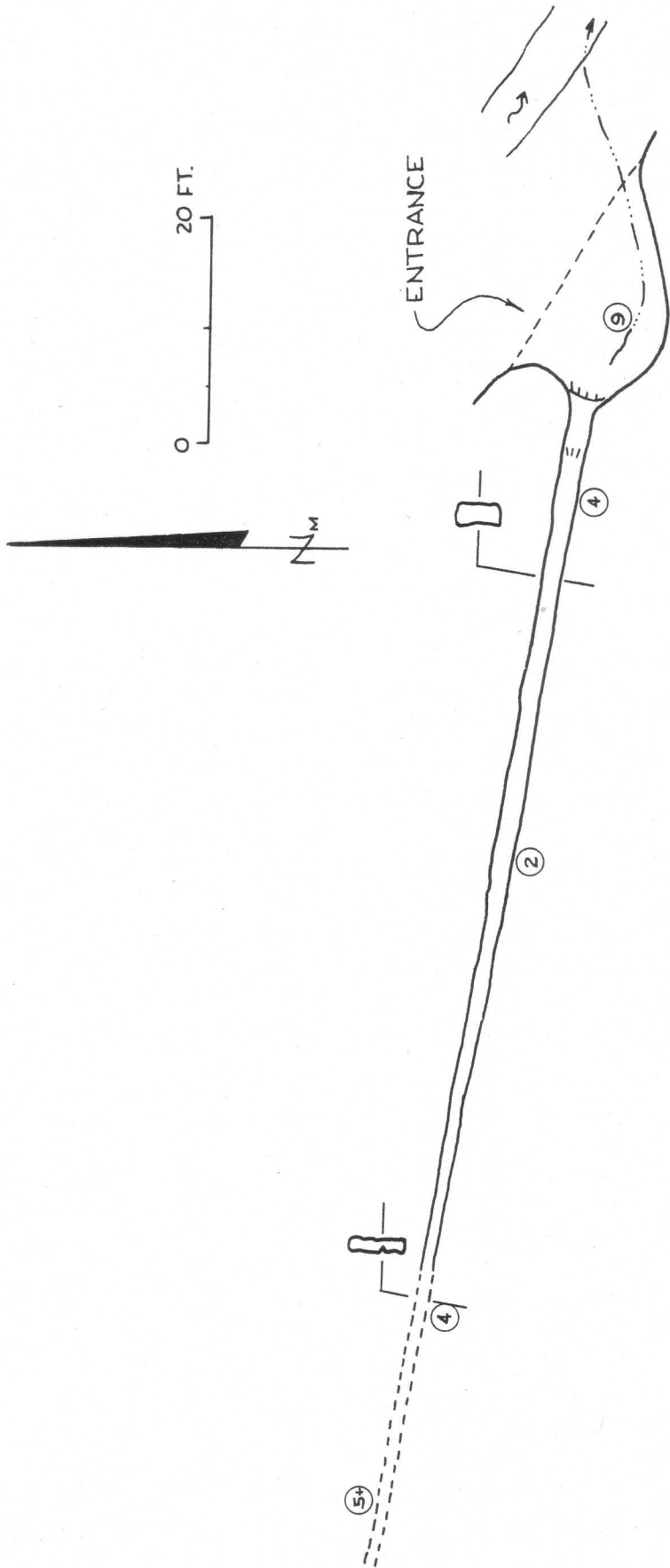
FLOORS OF DRY DIRT  
OVERBURDEN AVE. 4 FT.



# BROKEBACK CAVE

CORYELL CO., TEXAS

BRUNTON & TAPE SURVEY BY  
J. REDDELL, D. McKENZIE, &  
J. ARNOLD, 3-17-63  
DRAWN BY D. SMITH, 4-5-63  
UTSS



CAVE SPRING CAVE

CORYELL CO., TEXAS

LENSATIC & TAPE SURVEY

BY D. MCKENZIE, 1-2-63

DRAWN BY D. SMITH, 1-11-63

UTSS

DIAMOND CAVE

Coryell County (#45)

Izoro 7.5' Quadrangle

Owner:

Description: The entrance to this cave is a perfectly diamond-shaped hole about 5' long and 4' wide at its widest point. It is located on the flat top of a "plateau" southwest of Pearl and is one of the best-known caves in Coryell County. The entrance drops about 14' to a crawl which extends in two directions from the entrance. To the west it ends after about 10', but to the east it extends for about 400' where columns split the passage into two distinct crawlways. These come together again after about 80'. After an additional 80' the cave narrows from about 20' to about 3' and continues as a crevice-type crawl for an additional 50' before ending. The floor of the cave throughout is covered with silt, although in some places a thin layer of guano is found. The cave is frequented by local people, and several small pits in the floor indicate that it may be rumored to contain treasure as do most of the caves in the area. It was mapped on August 17, 1964, by James Reddell, Bill Russell, David McKenzie, and Tommy McGerrigle. (See map, page 40)

Biology: On the above date a collection of invertebrates was made in the cave. None of the material has yet been studied, but it includes centipedes, many collembola, many mites (at least five species), cave crickets, tenebrionid beetles, larva (probably Tenebrionidae), a pseudoscorpion, spiders (including some blind specimens), and pillbugs.

Ref: TSS files

DOUBLETREE CAVE

Coryell County (#32)

Post Oak Mountain 7.5' Quadrangle

Owner: U.S. Gov't (Fort Hood Military Reservation)

Description: The entrance is a 3' in diameter hole that drops 10' into a 15' x 30' long room. The ceiling height varies from 3' to 8'. The floor slopes down to a 4' deep pit at the eastern end of the room, the total depth of the cave being about 20'. There is a small hole in the west side of the room that issues a current of air. This air is coming from a hole on the surface 15' from the entrance. The cave was mapped January 5, 1963, by Terry Raines and David McKenzie. (See map, page 41)

Ref: TSS files

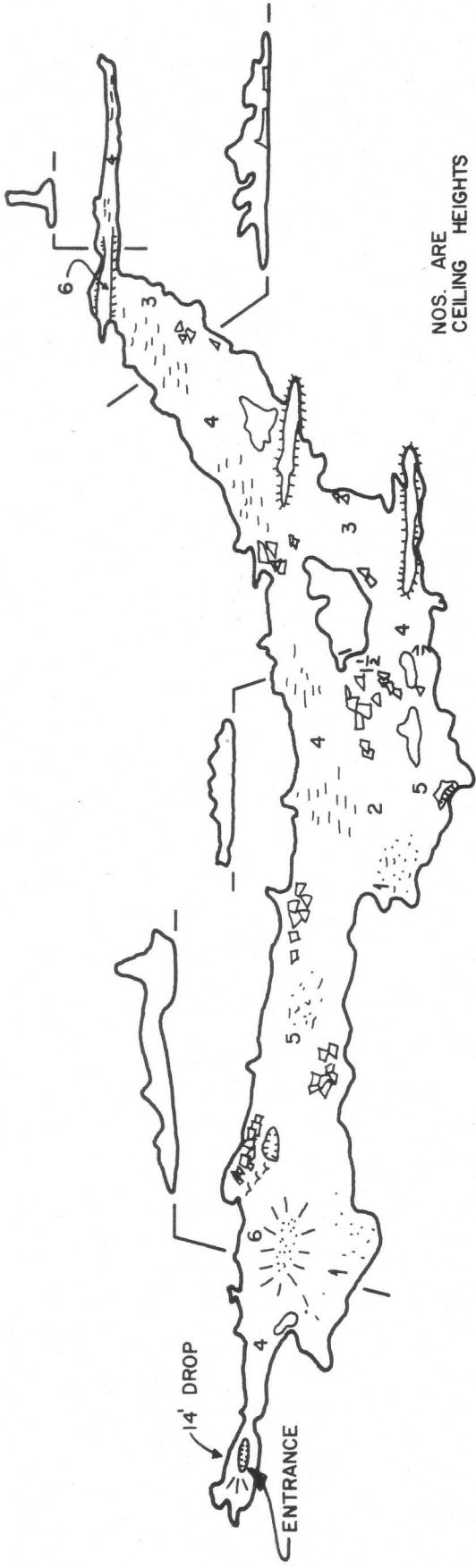
EGYPT CAVE

Coryell County (#39)

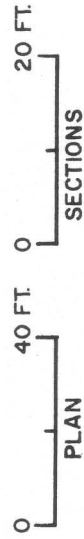
North Fort Hood 7.5' Quadrangle

Owner: U.S. Gov't (Fort Hood Military Reservation)

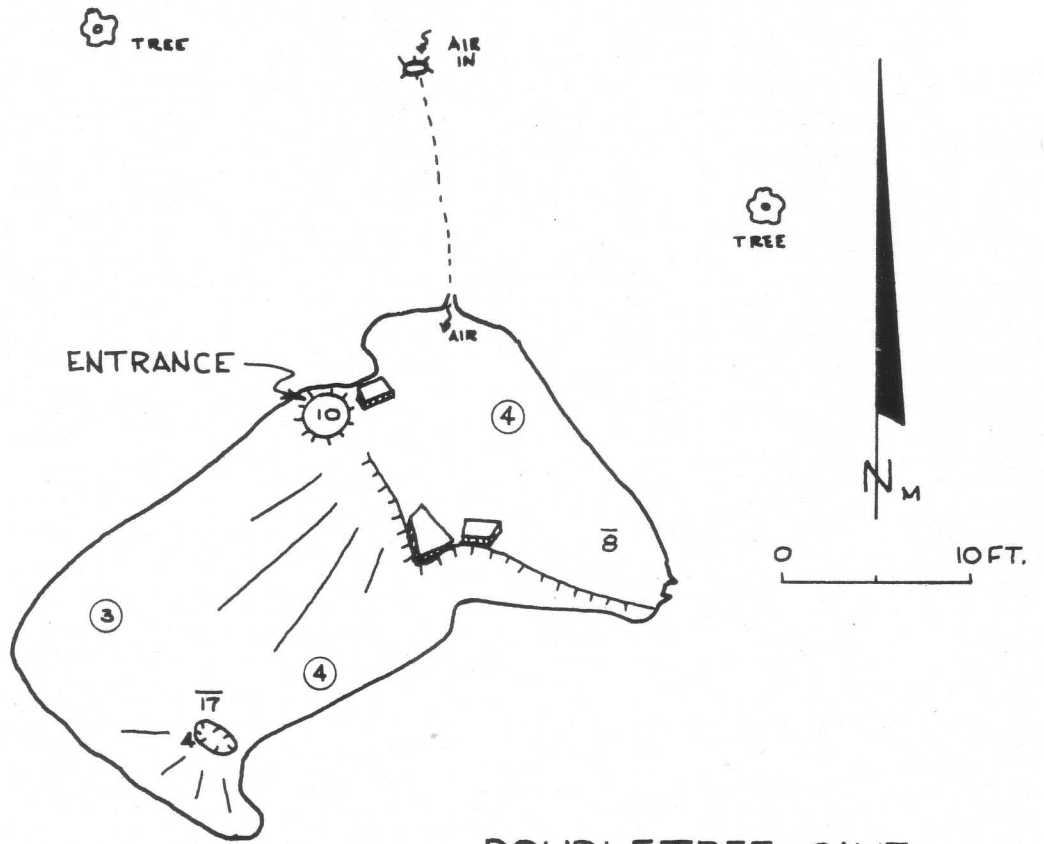
Description: Egypt Cave is well-known locally as a bat cave from which bat guano has been mined in the past. The main entrance is a hole 4' by 6' long dropping vertically 15' into a cross passage averaging 4' by 8' high. The passage extends 60' in both directions, another entrance drop being situated at the ESE end. A low opening directly below the main entrance leads north to a room 20' in diameter and 5' high. Another low opening 15'



NOS. ARE  
CEILING HEIGHTS

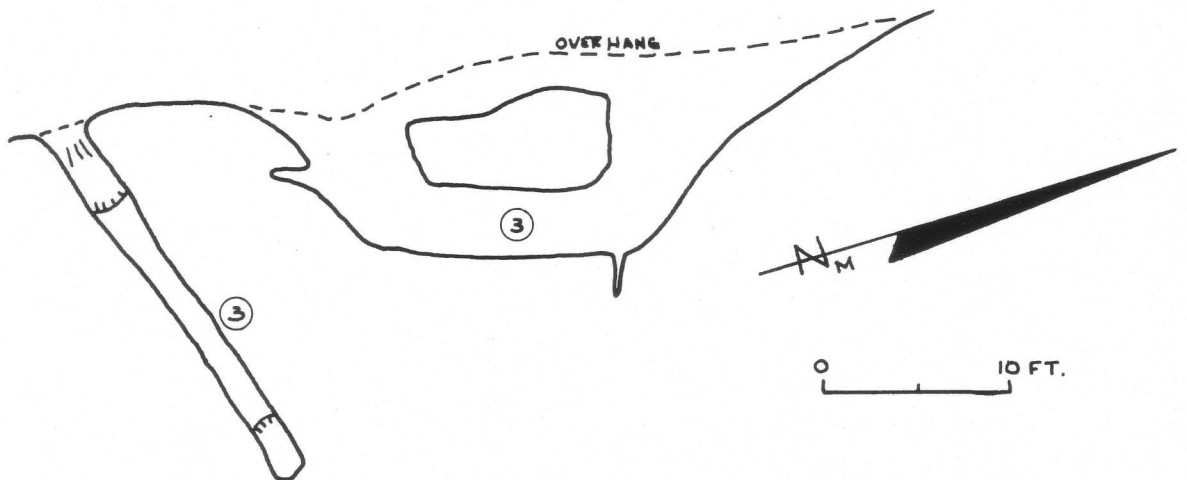


**DIAMOND CAVE**  
 CORYELL COUNTY, TEXAS  
 SURVEY BY U.T.S.S. 8-16-64



**DOUBLETREE CAVE**  
CORYELL CO., TEXAS

COMPASS & TAPE SURVEY BY  
T. RAINES & D. MCKENZIE, 1-5-63  
DRAWN BY D. SMITH, 1-21-63  
UTSS



**WOLF CAVES NO. 1 & NO. 2**  
CORYELL CO., TEXAS

COMPASS & TAPE SURVEY BY  
D. MCKENZIE, 1-2-63  
DRAWN BY D. SMITH  
UTSS

west of the entrance leads to a room 15' wide, 13' high, and extending north 60' from the entrance passage. Due to an extremely large concentration of bats, passages extending east at the back of both rooms were left for later exploration. These passages are developed along joints parallel to the entrance passage and likely lead to other rooms. The rooms are characterized by smooth walls and a floor of red clay covered by large mounds of guano. There are no formations in the part explored. It was mapped as far as explored by David McKenzie on Sept. 9, 1962. (See map, page 43)  
Ref: TSS files

FRANK'S CAVE

Coryell County (#44)

Shell Mountains 7.5' Quadrangle

Owner: Mr. Franks

Description: The cave is a 4'-6' in diameter pit dropping approximately 20' in a series of ledges. In the past, attempts were made to dig out a silt-filled "passage" at the bottom. It was visited by David McKenzie on Feb. 1, 1963.

Biology: A small collection of invertebrates was made in the cave by David McKenzie. The fauna includes cave crickets, centipedes, ants, and beetles (including Staphylinidae). The ants have been identified as Eciton (Labidus) coecum (Latreille) and the cave crickets as Ceuthophilus secretus Scudder; the other material is still under study.

Ref: TSS files

GOATHEAD CAVE

Coryell County (#43)

Shell Mountains 7. ' Quadrangle

Owner: U.S. Gov't (Fort Hood Military Reservation)

Description: The entrance is an 8' x 3' high opening in a vertical outcrop. The cave extends for 32' as a large 10' wide crawlway before dropping to a smaller crawlway leading to a room about 20' in diameter. Total length is 65' although removal of silt at the back would allow further progress. The cave was mapped on Feb. 1, 1963, by David McKenzie and Blake Travis. (See map, page 44)

Ref: TSS files

PLATEAU CAVE NO. 1

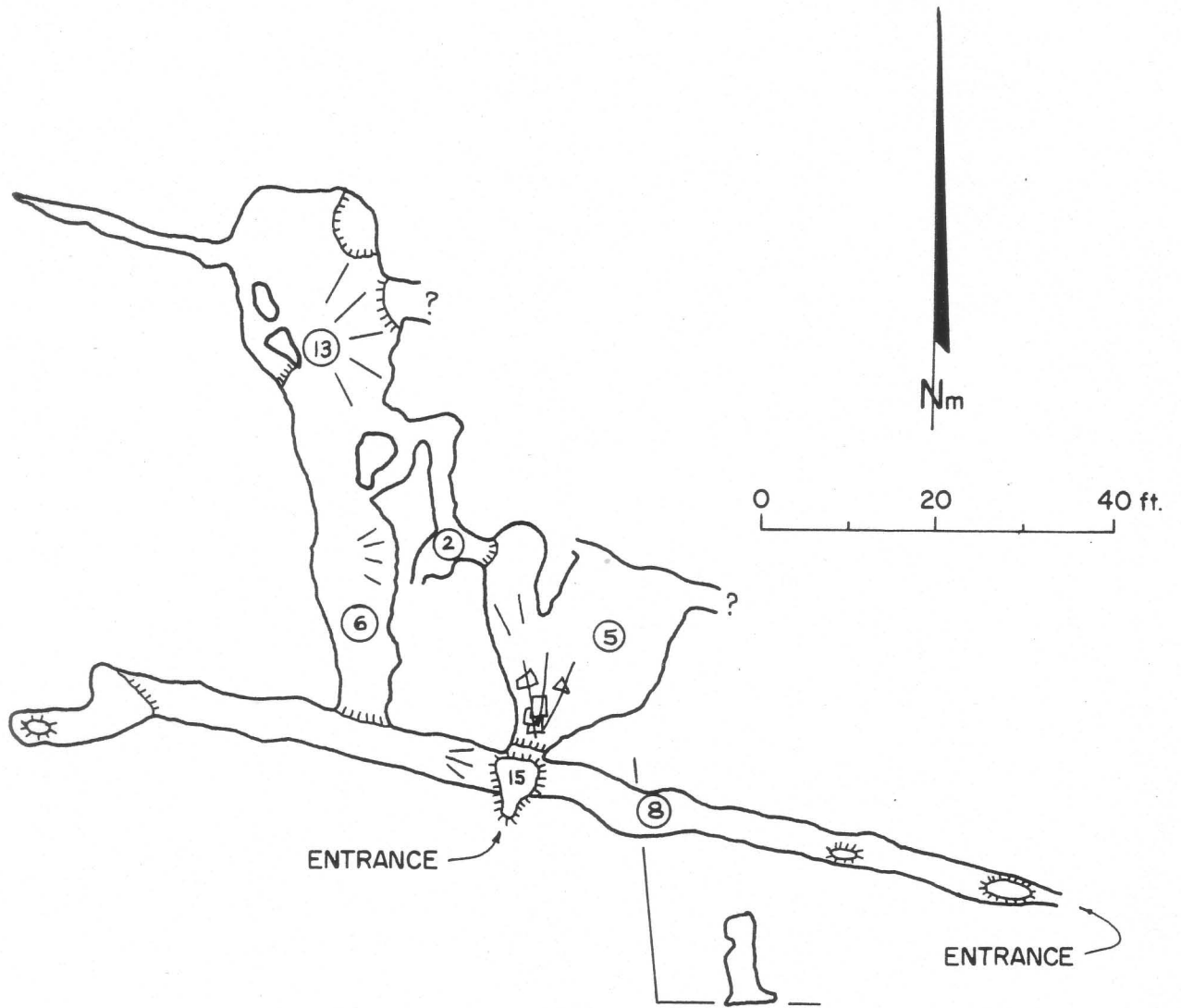
Coryell County (#33)

North Fort Hood 7.5' Quadrangle

Owner: U.S. Gov't (Fort Hood Military Reservation)

Description: This cave extends from the bottom of an oblong sink 8' deep. A creekbed empties into this sink, which is surrounded by post oaks. The cave is a tight, unexplored crawlway. Visited by David McKenzie and Terry Raines on Jan. 5, 1963.

Ref: TSS files

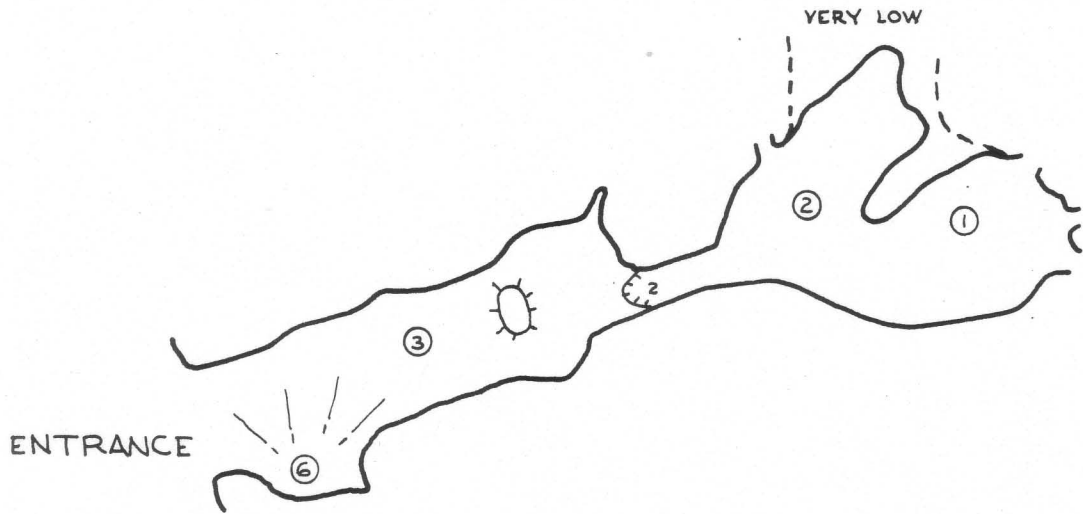


# EGYPT CAVE

CORYELL CO., TEXAS  
SKETCH MAP, 9/62  
U.T.G.



0 25 FT.



# GOATHEAD CAVE

CORYELL CO., TEXAS

COMPASS & TAPE SURVEY BY  
D. MCKENZIE & B. TRAVIS, 2-1-63  
DRAWN BY D. SMITH, 2-15-63  
UTSS

PLATEAU CAVE NO. 2

Coryell County (#34)

North Fort Hood 7.5' Quadrangle

Owner: U.S. Gov't (Fort Hood Military Reservation)

Description: The entrance to this cave is a 10' pit at the bottom of a large sink 25' wide and 10' deep. At the bottom of the pit, which is 3' in diameter, there is a low-ceilinged 30' in diameter room. There is another 10' pit in the floor of this room, with a silt-filled passage at the bottom. It was visited on Jan. 5, 1963, by Terry Raines and David McKenzie.

Ref: TSS files

SALTPETRE CAVE

Coryell County (#42)

Shell Mountains 7.5' Quadrangle

Owner: U.S. Gov't (Fort Hood Military Reservation)

Description: The cave is near Shell Mountain Bat Cave on property previously owned by Judge Kemp. It consists of a single room about 30' wide and 50' long. Near the foot of a cone of breakdown and trash the ceiling is 10' high. From the southeast end of the room a crawlway extends 25' to a silt fill. The cave's entrance is a sink 3' x 12' long situated at the base of a 4' ledge which parallels the edge of the plateau. The cave may have been mined for nitrates but nothing specific is known. It was mapped in March, 1963, by James Reddell, David McKenzie, and Jim Arnold. (See map, page 46)

Ref: TSS files

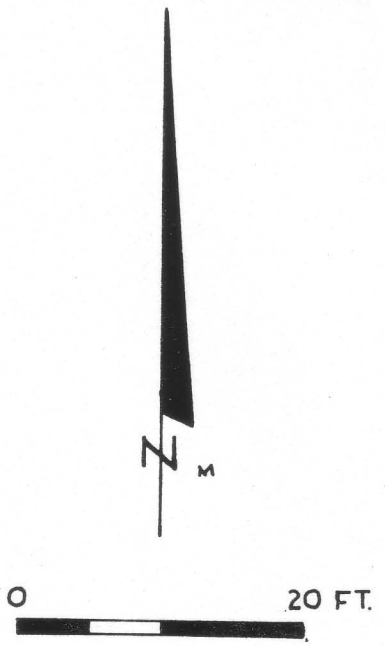
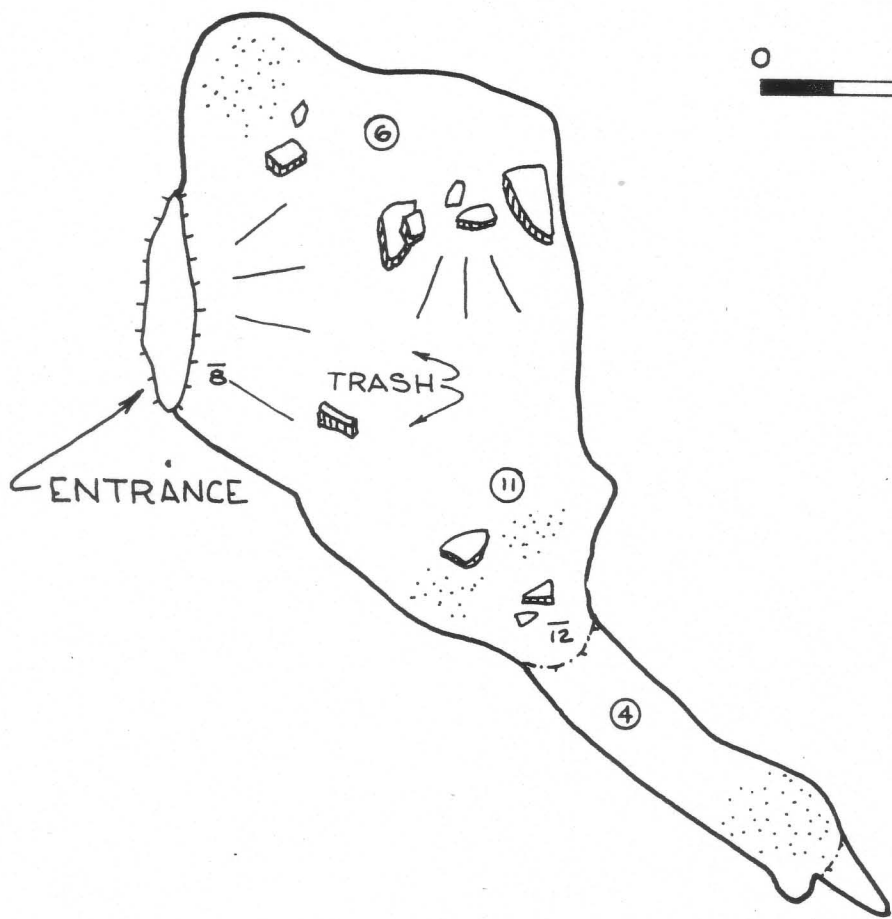
SHELL MOUNTAIN BAT CAVE

Coryell County (#41)

Shell Mountains 7.5' Quadrangle

Owner: U.S. Gov't (Fort Hood Military Reservation)

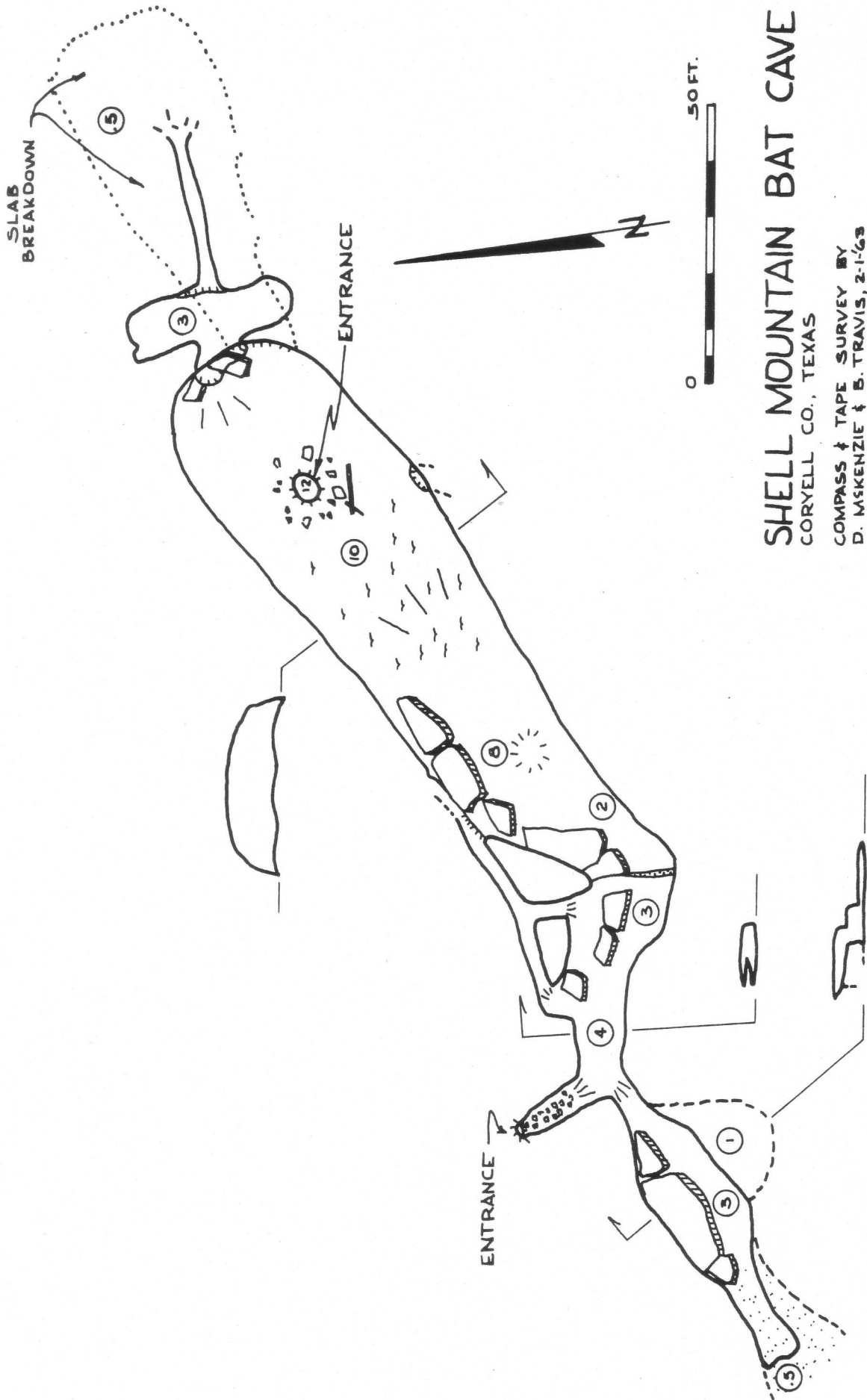
Description: The main entrance to the cave is a 5' in diameter hole through the ceiling of its largest room. Equipment is needed for the 12' drop, a wooden ladder in place being too rotten and incomplete for safety. The room is approximately 120' long, 30' wide, and 8'-10' high. From the southwest end of the room a lower and irregular passage extends for an additional 100' before becoming too low. From a point midway along this passage a rocky crawlway slopes up to another entrance, although one would have to move rocks to get through. At the northeast end of the room a hole through breakdown drops about 10' into a small low-ceilinged room. After another smaller drop, a crawlway extends and becomes too small at about 25'. Also extending from the northeast end of the large room, at a higher level, is a peculiar area of slab breakdown. Although the ceiling height remains 1' or less, the ceiling and floor undulates, becoming steep and hard to explore in some places. Though estimated to be about 75' long and 40' wide, the area is not fully checked out. The cave contains no notable formations, and the floor consists primarily of guano-covered breakdown. Much trash lies at the bottom of the entrance drop and a large roll of barbed-wire covers the entrance. (See map, page 48)



SALTPETRE CAVE  
CORYELL CO., TEXAS  
BRUNTON & TAPE SURVEY BY  
J. REDDELL & D. MCKENZIE, 3-17-63  
DRAWN BY D. SMITH, 4-1-63

Biology: Although at one time a fairly large bat colony apparently inhabited the cave few now live in it. Two collections of invertebrates have been made in the cave. The first was made by David McKenzie on Feb. 1, 1963, and included millipeds, Cambala speobia (Chamberlin), and catopid beetles, Ptomaphagus (Adelops) sp. The second collection was made on March 16, 1963, by James Reddell and David McKenzie. This included three species of beetles, collembola, fleas, spiders, cave crickets, and reduviid bugs. Besides Ptomaphagus (Adelops), a tenebrionid beetle has been identified, Embaphion muricatum (Say). The fleas are Pulex prob. simulans Baker; the spiders are Cicurina varians Gertsch and Mulaik; the cave crickets are Ceuthophilus secretus Scudder. The guano in the cave is, at times, apparently covered with the fungus, Histoplasma capsulatum.

History: This is probably the best-known cave in the county. The following account of the early history of the cave is quoted from the extremely rare Coryell County History Stories, by Frank E. Simmons. "Of all the treasure deposits, legendary and otherwise, found in the Coryell Hills, the Bat Cave not far from Pidcoke is perhaps the most valuable. Its portal resembles somewhat the portals of those other mines that have inflamed men and somens minds, but the treasure here is not gold nor any other metallic mineral. It is a treasure that if worked out and properly applied, will produce tangible results. It is the home of countless thousands of little hairy night prowling bats... L. Kemp, who lived south of Gatesville near Bat Cave, tells some interesting stories about this cave. Once two men came to Mr. Kemp and secured a lease with a view of exploiting the bat guano deposit on a commercial scale. One car of guano was shipped to Fort Worth and Mr. Kemp heard no more of them. Other parties came from San Antonio, and estimated there were thousands of tons waiting to be mined. They leased it from Mr. Kemp, but due to a lawsuit, they were never able to return and work it. One year, Mr. Kemp kept a Mexican family on his farm. They were good workers, but when not working they spent most of their time in and around the Bat Cave. One time a young Mexican came to Mr. Kemp with a collection of bones he had gotten in the cave, and they were human bones, and among them, a human tooth. That night the Mexican dreamed the man to whom the tooth had once belonged, appeared to him and demanded that the tooth be returned to the place where it had originally been buried in the cave. Believing in the import of dreams, the young Mexican, in the early morning obeyed the command of the ghost man and took the tooth to its original resting place in the cave. The cave has been explored for several hundred feet and has been found to contain an unestimable quantity of bat guano. Many sight seers go there, and many tourists. The cave has lost its lost mine stories, but it is most likely a cavern formed in the remote past, by the folding and buckling of the earth's crust while it was taking final form. This place is on the outskirts of the Burnet-Llano uplift, where there are many caves, including the famous Longhorn Caverns near Burnet." (Simmons, pp. 69-70) Another story told of the cave is of a man who was once trapped in the cave for two or three days. When he had almost completed the task of piling rocks high enough to climb out, he was found by some of his relatives. Guano was mined from this or another cave on Shell Mountain, during World War I. The cave was used by troops on Fort Hood for practising guerilla warfare, but after four soldiers contracted histoplasmosis in Dec. 1958 and almost died as a result, the cave was placed off-limits to military personnell. It was explored and mapped in Feb. 1963 by David McKenzie and Blake Travis.



# SHELL MOUNTAIN BAT CAVE

CORYELL CO., TEXAS

COMPASS & TAPE SURVEY BY  
 D. MCKENZIE & B. TRAVIS, 2-1-63  
 DRAWN BY D. SMITH, 2-14-63  
 UTSS

- Bibliography: Anonymous. "Histoplasmosis in Texas caves?" The Texas Caver, Vol. IV, No. 3, p. 11. May-June, 1959.
- Simmons, Frank E. Coryell County History Stories, pp. 2 and 69-70. Apparently unpublished. Proof copy in Barker Texas History Center at the University of Texas. 1948.
- Spence, Jamie. "Histoplasmosis Reported in Central Texas." The Texas Caver, Vol. IV, No. 1, p. 13. Jan.-Feb. 1959.

Ref: TSS files

TIPPIT CAVE

Coryell County (#30)

North Fort Hood 7.5' Quadrangle

Owner: U.S. Gov't (Fort Hood Military Reservation)

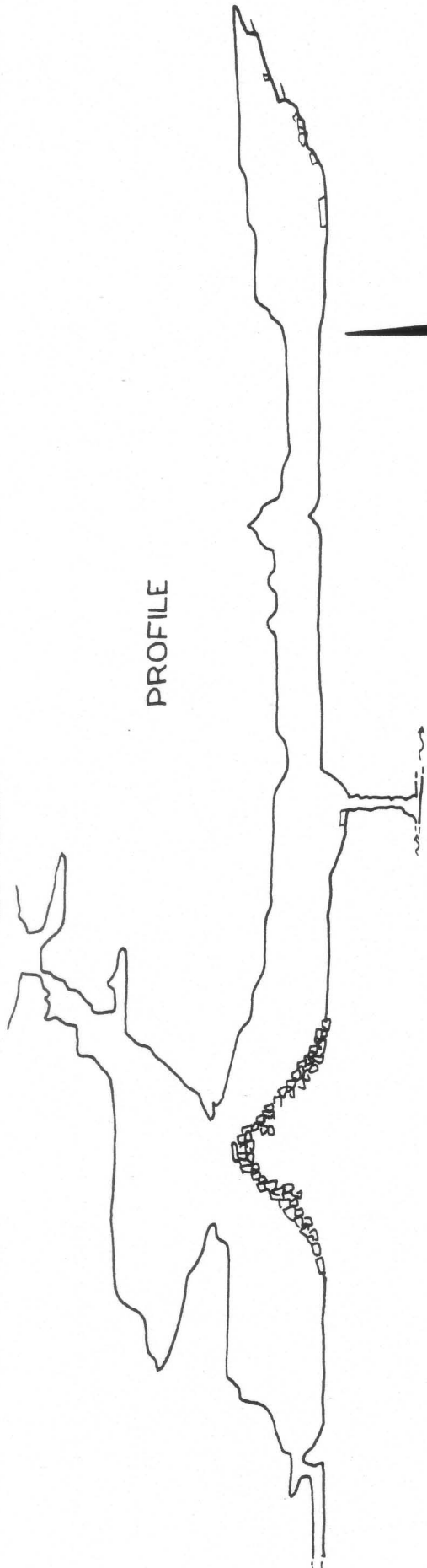
Description: Tippit Cave, one of the larger and more interesting caves in the county, is situated in an impact area on Fort Hood Reservation. The small sink entrance is very hard to locate for the vicinity is thickly overgrown with oak and shrubbery. From the 3' x 3' high opening a steep slope drops 30' to a room 35' long, 12' wide, and 15' high. A 2' wide crevice in the floor drops 6' to a mound of breakdown from which the principal passage of the cave extends east and west. The floor level is about 45' below the surface. The east section is 160' long and averages 8' high and 10'-15' wide. The floor, generally smooth and free of breakdown, consists of moist red clay with a scattering of guano beneath some domes near mid-length. Near the entrance a 2' wide pit in the floor drops an additional 10' to a tight crawlway containing a small trickle of a stream. It was not explored for fear of disturbing a heavy population of crustacea in a shallow pool near its entrance. West of the crevice the main passage extends 40' as 8' x 15' high. A crawlway was explored for an additional 50' to a tightening caused by the gradual rise of its floor of residual clay. The cave contains no formations. It was explored and mapped in March, 1963, by James Reddell and David McKenzie. (See map, page 50)

Biology: The cave contains one of the most interesting faunas of any cave in Coryell County. It is especially significant in that it is the most northern locality for most of the species of troglobites recorded from the cave. The small stream at the bottom of the pit contains a large population of amphipods (Stygonectes balconis Hubricht) and isopods (Asellus sp.). These animals were gathered about a small patch of blue-green algae and many of them were tinged blue-green. Other troglobites reported from the cave include immature specimens of the spider genus Cicurina and a milliped, Cambala speobia (Chamberlin). Other fauna collected includes centipedes, collembola, staphylinid beetles, spiders (Cicurina varians Gertsch and Mulaik), and a catopid beetle, Ptomaphagus (Adelops) sp.

Legends: The following legend is told, in a slightly different form, of Tippit Cave. It is quoted here in its original form from Simmons' History of Coryell County. "An old legend that has stamped itself into the minds of the people of Cave Creek and of Coryell County, is to the effect that about the time Fort Gates was founded, a party of prospectors, returning from California to the east, pitched camp one night on Cow House River. They prepared their meal of dried buffalo meat, black coffee, and a short supply of bread, and swapped yarns of adventure, and then lay down for the night. During the night, a band of robbers assailed them and murdered the entire company. The robbers then took the prospectors gold and other

ENTRANCE

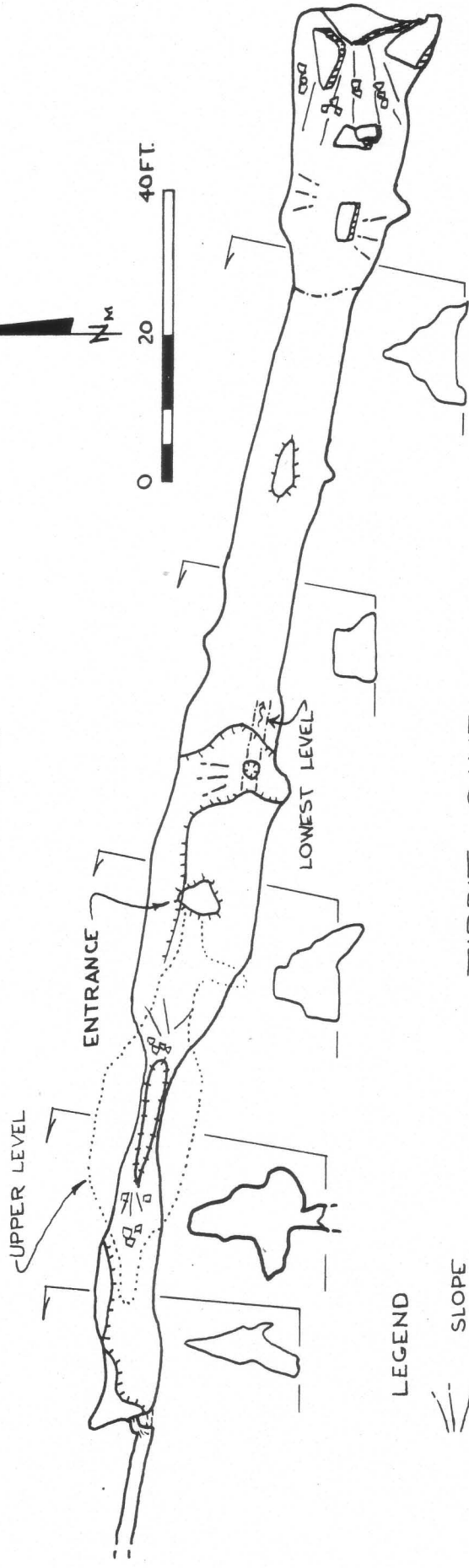
PROFILE



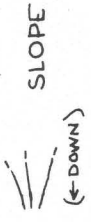
UPPER LEVEL

ENTRANCE

LOWEST LEVEL



LEGEND



TIPPIT CAVE  
CORYELL CO., TEXAS

BRUNTON & TAPE SURVEY  
BY J. REDDELL & D. MCKENZIE, 3-10-63  
UTSS

valuables, and prepared to make their escape. The next day they met a company of Texas Rangers, who defeated them in battle. The outlaws escaped to the hills. It is said that they took refuge in a cave in the Coryell or Cave Creek Hills. Here they stayed in hiding until danger of pursuit by the Rangers was over. The story goes that the robbers remained in the cave most of the winter. They had an Indian scout and hunter, who they sent out to get supplies. Once the Indian remained out too long to suit the outlaws, so they suspected he was treacherous. A second time he remained out too long, so he was killed and buried in a position that he appeared to be looking under a large boulder, which lay in the mouth of a cave, where legend says, a vast treasure is buried. Once a member of the party was seriously ill. A runner was sent to Fort Gates for a doctor. The doctor was found and started to administer to the sick one. A short distance from the Fort the doctor was blindfolded. He was taken about ten miles facing a northwest wind. The party dismounted. He was let down a shaft, into a large vault or room, where his blinds were removed. To his astonishment, he beheld a vast amount of gold bullion. He attended to the sick as best he could. When time came for the doctor to go, he was urged to take whatever he would of the treasure. It is said that not a mite was taken by the doctor. He was then blindfolded again and returned to Fort Gates. The story was not revealed for a long time afterward. The doctor could never locate the cave after his blindfolded visit there. This legend has become associated with the Pancake Mine. Local legend says that a cave, a few hundred yards from the mine, is the place where the treasure was hidden by the robbers. In the archeological research made in the vicinity of the mine, Mr. Pancake found at the entrance to a cave, a large boulder. On excavation, a skull was found, face looking under the boulder. Associated with this were fourteen others. However, the artifacts found belonged to the Neolithic Stone Age--mortars, pestles, and other finished flints." (Simmons, pp. 63-65) The story of outlaws hiding in a cave and of the doctor being brought from Fort Gates is told of Tippit Cave and is apparently the same story as the above. This and the reputed treasure have inspired much digging for gold in the floor of Tippit Cave.

Bibliography: Simmons, Frank E. History of Coryell County, pp. 63-65.  
Coryell County News. 1936.

Ref: TSS files

WAGONTOP CAVE (COVERED WAGON CAVE)

Coryell County (#37)

North Fort Hood 7.5' Quadrangle

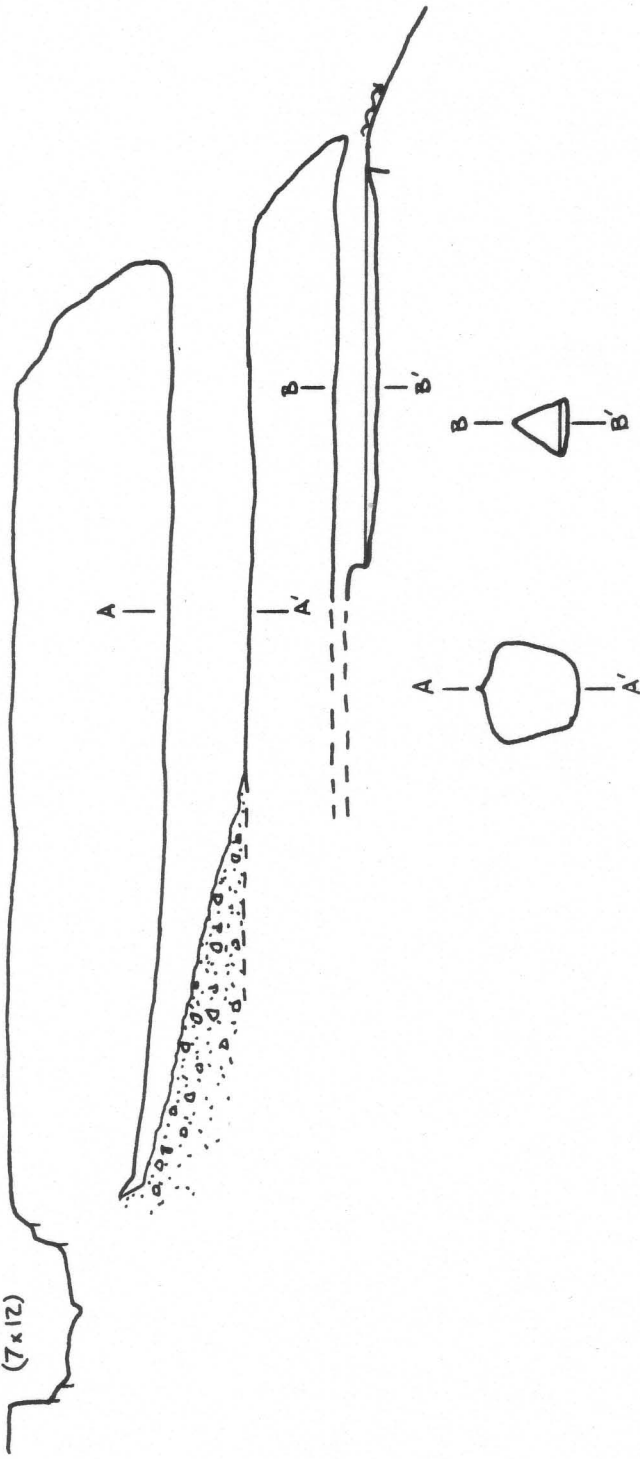
Owner: U.S. Gov't (Fort Hood Military Reservation)

Description: Wagontop Cave, at one time, was one of the best-known caves in that part of the county. It consists of a 6' in diameter walking passage, with a uniform cross-section shaped much like that of a covered wagon. Thirty-five feet within the cave, a gently sloping fill of loose dirt and rocks begins to rise, finally reaching the ceiling 65' from the entrance. This fill is the result of a reportedly recent collapse of the 10' thick overburden at the back. It is reported that, before the collapse, the passage continued to a drop into a narrow water passage, the water soon becoming too deep to wade. It is known to have been used as a distillery by two boys until a flood from within washed them and their apparatus out through the mouth. They afterwards moved to a cave nearby. It was mapped on Dec. 30, 1962, by David McKenzie. (See map, page 52)

Ref: TSS files



RECENT  
SINK  
(7 x 12)



275°

95°

WAGONTOP CAVE  
AND  
WAGONTOP SPRING CAVE

CORYELL CO., TEXAS  
COMPASS & TAPE SURVEY BY  
D. MCKENZIE, 12-30-62  
DRAWN BY D. SMITH

UTSS

WAGONTOP SPRING CAVE

Coryell County (#38)

North Fort Hood 7.5' Quadrangle

Owner: U.S. Gov't (Fort Hood Military Reservation)

Description: Wagontop Spring Cave, from which a small stream of water issues, is a probable continuation of the water passage encountered in the back of Wagontop Cave before the recent collapse blocked the passage in it. As a 2.5' high triangular crawlway, it extends directly underneath and 8' below Wagontop Cave. One can crawl about 28' in 6" of water before the floor rises. It was mapped on Dec. 30, 1962, by David McKenzie. (See map, p. 52)  
Ref: TSS files

WOLF CAVE NO. 1

Coryell County (#35)

North Fort Hood 7.5' Quadrangle

Owner: U.S. Gov't (Fort Hood Military Reservation)

Description: This cave is known as a once-highly productive place for rattlesnake hunters. It is a 3' high crawlway 27' long and is one of several holes in a 60' high bluff. It is located just south of Wolf Cave No. 2. It was mapped by David McKenzie on Jan. 2, 1963. (See map, page 41)  
Ref: TSS files

WOLF CAVE NO. 2

Coryell County (#36)

North Fort Hood 7.5' Quadrangle

Owner: U.S. Gov't (Fort Hood Military Reservation)

Description: Two holes about 15' apart are connected by a 3' high arched passage. This cave is located just north of Wolf Cave No. 1. It was mapped by David McKenzie on Jan. 2, 1963. (See map, page 41)  
Ref: TSS files

SHELTERS

AMENT SHELTER

Coryell County

Quadrangle:

Owner:

Description: This is a rockshelter containing occupational debris and burials.

Archeology: Material from this shelter indicates that it is predominantly of the "Central Texas Aspect, both Austin and Toyah foci (Scallorn and Perdiz points reported as offerings in one grave). Scant traces of the Edwards Plateau Aspect. Trade items apparently found with the Central Texas Aspect include pottery pipe, Copena knives and arrow point type Alba from East Texas, and 3 obsidian flakes, possibly from the Southwestern United States." (Suhm, 1960) It was excavated by D.B. Hill in 1951.

Bibliography: Miller, E.O., and Edward B. Jelks. "Archeological Excavations at the Belton Reservoir, Coryell County, Texas." Bulletin of the Texas Archeological and Paleontological Society, Vol. 23, pp. 178, 198-201, and 215. 1952.

Suhm, Dee Ann. "A Review of Central Texas Archeology." Bulletin of the Texas Archeological Society, Vol. 29, p. 89. 1958 (Printed 1959).

Ref: TSS files

BEE ROCK INDIAN CAMP

Coryell County

Oglesby 7.5' Quadrangle

Owner:

Description: "Bee Rocks are two massive limestone bluffs that rise to an approximate height of two hundred feet above Leon Valley and overlook a large portion of that rich country. These rocks are about 4 miles southwest of Oglesby in Coryell County. They face west and extend for several hundred yards north and south. South Bee Rock has about a 250 yard face and commands the finest view of the Leon Valley. North Bee Rock is about the same elevation, but is very much longer... Separating the bluffs is a narrow rugged cove cutting back into the hill a quarter of a mile which widens into a circular basin closed by massive cliffs of limestone. This cove is about 80 yards wide at its mouth. Some distance back, 3 narrow ravines come together, forming the drainage for the basin. All of the slopes are covered with massive boulders or brush. Following the left prong of the ravine, after a 150 yard climb up, we come suddenly to a large grotto or rock shelter. The cave is about 60 feet long, 6 to 12 feet wide with overhanging roof 3 to 6 feet high. On the floor, in the leaves and dust, were many small bones and fragments of larger ones. A little exploration revealed large beds of ancient ashes, in which scraps of flint, bone, and shell mingled. Shoveling out about 20 bushels of ashes very carefully, we found a dozen crude points, a bone awl and several hammerstones. Since then, G.R. Green has found extensive ashbeds from which remains of 3 human skulls, and a very fine arrow point 3 inches long, light, thin and serrated... In another rock shelter, the remains of several humans and some spiral, fossil ivory beads were found. There are on the rugged hillsides, numerous places where the Indians mined flint..." (Simmons, pp. 67-69)

Bibliography: Simmons, Frank E. Coryell County History Stories, pp. 67-69. Apparently unpublished. An uncorrected proof copy is on file at the Barker Texas History Center at the University of Texas. 1948.

Ref: TSS files

CAVE CREEK SHELTERS

Coryell County

Quadrangle:

Description: Numerous shelters showing signs of human occupancy are to be found along the banks of Cave Creek. Three of these were investigated by Mr. A.M. Wilson and Mr. John Lane in the spring of 1933. Fragments of fiber cordage and mattings were found in one of these.

Bibliography: Horne, Sam N. "Dating Cave Creek Shelter Occupancy." Central Texas Archeologist, No. 4, pp. 96-97. December, 1938.

Scott, Zelma May. The History of Coryell County to 1920, pp. 16-17.

M.A. Thesis at the University of Texas. June, 1946.

Simmons, Frank E. History of Coryell County, p. 46. Coryell County News. 1936.

Ref: TSS files

CUNNINGHAM CAVE (CUNNINGHAM SHELTER)

Coryell County

Pearl 7.5' Quadrangle

Owner: Mrs. E.M. Hampton

Description: This large rockshelter is 75' wide at its mouth and extends about 25' back into the bluff with a ceiling height of 25'. The shelter contains pictographs.

History: This is probably the Cunningham Cave mentioned by Frank Simmons in his histories of Coryell County. He states, in collaboration with C.J. Shook, Bill Gasoway lived in what is now known as Cunningham Cave in the winter of 1866-67. Laura Gasoway and Dick Williams were married in that cave in 1869. Mrs. Williams now resides at Pearl. In the summer of 1870, John Roe built the first log house in the cave." (Simmons, 1936) The cave is named for an old man by the name of Cunningham who lived in this cave and two others (also known as Cunningham Cave) in the vicinity of Pearl. The shelter was excavated by A.T. Jackson in 1930. It was not visited in the process of this survey.

Bibliography: Jackson, A.T. Picture-Writing of Texas Indians, p. 299. University of Texas Publication No. 3809. 1938.

Simmons, Frank E. Coryell County History Stories, p. 51. Apparently unpublished. An uncorrected proof copy is in the Barker Texas History Center at the University of Texas. 1948.

Simmons, Frank E. History of Coryell County, p. 48. Coryell County News. 1936.

Ref: TSS files

DRIPPING ROCK SHELTER

Coryell County

Quadrangle:

Owner:

Description: "At Dripping Rock Shelter 3 skulls, some red paint pigments, several arrow points and a mortar were also some polished shells." (Simmons, 1948)

Bibliography: Simmons, Frank E. Coryell County History Stories, pp. 67-69. Apparently unpublished. An uncorrected proof copy is on file at the Barker Texas History Center at the University of Texas. 1948.

Ref: TSS files

FIGURINE CAVE (41-CV-16)

Coryell County

Turnersville 7.5' Quadrangle (?)

Owner: Unknown; Lessee: Weldon Jones

Description: This is a 150' wide shelter which extends back into the cliff for 60'. It was excavated by Cecil Moore who found a figurine at a depth of 17'. The material is dated as Archaic.

Ref: U.T. Arch. Dept.

GRIMES-HOUY SHELTER

Coryell County

Quadrangle:

Owner:

Description: The shelter is near the head of a box canyon with walls 20 to 30 feet in height. It is about 60' long, with a depth of 6 to 12 feet and a ceiling height of from 6 to 8 feet above the present surface.

Archeology: The shelter contained about 24 inches of deposit with occupational debris and 12 burials representing 17 individuals. The artifacts are principally of the Central Texas Aspect, with Austin and Toyah Foci components present. "In the lower levels a few dart points were found, apparently mixed with the Central Texas Aspect material. The ceramic assemblage, as well as the occurrence of Copena knives, suggest relationships with peoples of east Texas." (Suhm, 1960)

History: Excavations were carried on in the shelter intermittently from January 18 to March 2, 1951, by E.H. Moorman and E.P. Miller. At odd times during the late spring and early summer of 1951, Mr. D.B. Hill excavated further in the shelter. On April 1, 1956, a 13th burial was discovered by Harry Shafter and Wilber Corbin of Temple who excavated it.

Bibliography: Miller, E.O., and Edward B. Jelks. "Archeological Excavations at the Belton Reservoir, Coryell County, Texas." Bulletin of the Texas Archeological and Paleontological Society, Vol. 23, pp. 168, 185, 190-192, and 212. 1952.

Suhm, Dee Ann. "A Review of Central Texas Archeology." Bulletin of the Texas Archeological Society, Vol. 29, pp. 96-97. 1958 (Printed 1960)

Watt, Frank H. "Two Coryell County burials." Central Texas Archeologist, No. 7, p. 111. 1956.

Ref: TSS files

HOUY SHELTER

Coryell County

Quadrangle:

Owner: Daniel Houy

Description: The shelter is formed along the right side of a gully, when looking downstream, and just below a waterfall about 15' high. It is 75' long and 35' wide and averages about 6' high, with a very flat floor of dirt and goat droppings. At one end of the shelter there is a large mass of flowstone blocking it. It was mapped in 1963 by James Reddell and David McKenzie. (See map, page 57)

Ref: TSS files

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INDIAN CAVE

Coryell County

Leon Junction 7.5' Quadrangle (?)

Owner: State of Texas (Mother Neff State Park)

Description: The shelter is 60' long and 25' deep. The front part of the shelter is about 13' high, but the back half is about 6' high. A slab of rock on the floor is supposed to be the mark of a burial. Indian burials and artifacts have been removed from the shelter. It has been mapped by David McKenzie. (See map, page 57.)

Ref: TSS files

SHIVES BRANCH SITE (39-A9-8)

Coryell County

Quadrangle:

Owner:

Description: This rockshelter contained burials and fiber cord. It was badly disturbed. Excavated by John W. Lane.

Ref: U.T. Arch. Dept.

UNNAMED SHELTER

Coryell County

Quadrangle:

Owner:

Description: "In the face of the north bluff of a gloomy canyon, nature in her travail of creation, cut into the solid rock hills, a rock shelter to a depth of 8 to 15 feet, with overhanging roof 8 to 10 feet high. This shelter is 60 feet long. Along the front of this shelter, for half its length, nature has cast massive stone blocks so that they form a sort of protecting wall. With two experienced men, I assisted in excavating this shelter, where evidently nature provided a home for many generations of primitive Americans. The ashbeds in this cave ranged from 2 to 6 feet deep. Finds in the cave were numerous finely finished flint artifacts, 20 bone awls, 20 polished shells, pieces of buckskin, paint pigments, grass matting, cord woven of cedar bark and grass fiber, also many mortars and many stones, some fragments of high quality pottery. Everything was powder dry to a depth of 6 feet... At one point 4 skeletons were found. They had been placed on the left side, face to the wall, and on top of each other until they were 4 deep. Six other skeletons were found, 3 of them folded in burial; 3 lying in the same shelter could not be explained by members of our party. There were no ornaments found, however, one very excellent soapstone pipe, of about 4 ounces weight, was found. One broken arrow shaft still held the stem of a broken off arrow. The dried and hardened sinew that still held the fragment of arrow was still bound just as the Indian had left it..." (Simmons, 1948)

Bibliography: Simmons, Frank E. Coryell County History Stories, pp. 67-69. Apparently unpublished. An uncorrected proof copy is on file at the Barker Texas History Center at the University of Texas. 1948.

Ref: TSS files

UNNAMED SHELTER

Coryell County

Quadrangle:

Owner:

Description: "E.J. Thomasson excavated a small shelter in the west bluff of Station Creek and removed 13 skulls." (Simmons, 1948)

Bibliography: Simmons, Frank E. Coryell County History Stories, pp. 67-69. Apparently unpublished. An uncorrected proof copy is on file at the Barker Texas History Center at the University of Texas. 1948.

Ref: TSS files

UNNAMED SHELTER

Coryell County

Quadrangle:

Owner:

Description: "Dr. Clyde Bailey, on the Culpepper Bluff in a shelter, excavated and exhumed remains representing more than a score of human beings. These remains were sent to the Smithsonian Institute for scientific study." (Simmons, 1948)

Bibliography: Simmons, Frank E. Coryell County History Stories, pp. 67-69. Apparently unpublished. An uncorrected proof copy is on file at the Barker Texas History Center at the University of Texas. 1948.

Ref: TSS files

UNNAMED SHELTER

Coryell County

Oglesby 7.5' Quadrangle

Owner:

Description: "This shelter lies under a slight overhang along a small spring-fed branch of the Leon River, about one mile southwest of Oglesby. The shelter is 20 feet long, has a maximum 8-foot depth and 6-foot vertical clearance and is so low under the bluff as to be subject to overflow by very high floods from the small stream..." (Watt, 1938)

Archeology: "This shelter contained 6 or 7 burials of which parts of 3 were secured. All were in such friable condition as to preclude extensive measurements. The burials were of the flexed type, similar to other Central Texas burials of record... The artifacts incidental to the burials consisted of possibly a half dozen flint projectile points. Other recoveries were a few fragments of deer jaw bones, coyote, squirrel or gopher, and numerous other unidentified bone fragments. One large worked piece of bone was present." (Watt, 1938)

History: "The writer visited the location with Mr. Sam Langston and anticipated later investigations, but before these could be carried out the shelter had been dug out, largely by relic hunters, and nearly all materials destroyed." (Watt, 1938)

Bibliography: Scott, Zelma May. The History of Coryell County to 1920, pp. 18-19. M.A. Thesis at the University of Texas. June, 1946.  
Watt, Frank H. "Report on a Small Rock Shelter in Coryell County."  
Central Texas Archeologist, No. 4, pp. 103-104. December, 1938.

Ref: TSS files

UNNAMED SHELTER

Coryell County

Pearl 7.5' Quadrangle

Owner: Willis J. Culp

Description: This rockshelter is 88 yards wide at its mouth and extends back into the bluff for 4'-18'. It faces south. Arrowpoints, knives, scrapers, metates, manos, and human remains were found in the cave when it was excavated by A.T. Jackson in 1930.

Ref: U.T. Arch. Dept.

UNNAMED SHELTERS

Coryell County

Quadrangle:

Owner: W.H. Kinsey

Description: Several large rockshelters are found near a large permanent spring, located near the Lampasas County line and southwest of Bee House. They were examined by A.T. Jackson in 1930.

Ref: U.T. Arch. Dept.

UNNAMED SHELTER (39-A9-18)

Coryell County

Coryell 7.5' Quadrangle

Owner:

Description: The shelter is at the head of a draw about 200' wide. It forms a crescent around the head of the draw. It is 15'-18' wide at the head of the draw and averages 6'-8' high. Five or six burials were excavated by Jessen James Howard in 1938. It was investigated by Kelley, Campbell, Jelks, and Turner in 1948.

Ref: U.T. Arch. Dept.

UNNAMED SHELTER (39-A9-19)

Coryell County

Quadrangle:

Owner:

Description: This rockshelter is located just west of a waterfall and extends for 600' along the side of a cliff. It extends back into the side of the cliff for from a few feet to 15'. When investigated in 1948 by Kelley, Campbell, Jelks, and Turner human remains and artifacts were found.

Ref: U.T. Arch. Dept.

UNNAMED SHELTER (39-A9-20)

Coryell County

Quadrangle:

Owner:

Description: This shelter is about 40' long and extends into the cliff for 10' at the widest point. Flint chips were found in it when it was examined in 1948 by Kelley, Campbell, Jelks, and Turner.

Ref: U.T. Arch. Dept.

#### RUMORS

UNNAMED CAVE

Coryell County

Description: In this cave "was found the skeleton of a man chained to a copper peg that had been driven into the living rock. Nearby were more skeletons." (Simmons, 1948) It is reported to be associated with a line of mysterious markings and symbols near Sugar Loaf Mountain.

Bibliography: Simmons, Frank E. Coryell County History Stories, p. 89. Apparently unpublished. An uncorrected proof copy is on file at the Barker Texas History Center at the University of Texas. 1948.

Ref: TSS files

UNNAMED CAVE

Coryell County

Description: "Further on toward Sugar Loaf was a strange well. When the wind blows from the south this well furnishes an abundance of water. The flow of the water was so strong that it floated out green leaves and small mammals from some unknown region and furnished a draft of air that would 'blow your hat off.' When the wind is from the north the well dried up. W.A. Mathney believes that there are extensive subterranean caverns that furnish the air drafts." (Simmons, 1948)

Bibliography: Simmons, Frank E. Coryell County History Stories, pp. 89-90. Apparently unpublished. An uncorrected proof copy is on file at the Barker Texas History Center at the University of Texas. 1948.

Ref: TSS files

UNNAMED CAVE

Coryell County

Description: "One of the caves on this strange line of signs and symbols has a distinctly modern tinge, in so far as its contents are concerned. In this cave, 500 feet, or was it yards (?) back for the entrance, W.A. Mathney found a Wells Fargo strong box. This cave is big enough to lead a horse into, for Mathney states that he hitched a horse to the handle of the strong box to try to dislodge it from its resting place in a crevice of the rock. He was able only to pull the handle off it, as it was wedged so tightly in the crevice." (Simmons, 1948)

Bibliography: Simmons, Frank E. Coryell County History Stories, p. 90. Apparently unpublished. An uncorrected proof copy is on file at the Barker Texas History Center at the University of Texas. 1948.

Ref: TSS files

ADOLPHUS CASEY CAVE

Coryell County

Owner: U.S. Gov't (Fort Hood Military Reservation)

Description: This is reported to be a large shelter or cave in which Adolphus Casey lived and raised a family. He is supposed to have built a wall across the front of the cave.

Ref: TSS files

BAT CAVE

Coryell County

Owner: U.S. Gov't (Fort Hood Military Reservation)

Description: Bat Cave has an entrance very similar to Cave Springs Cave and is located nearby on the old Tippit Farm. The small entrance is thought to draw air. This, years ago, enabled boys to go "bat hunting" where they would smoke thousands of bats out of the room (or rooms) within and bat them down with paddles. The cave is said to also issue water after rains."

Ref: TSS files

COUNTERFEIT HALL

Coryell County

Description: "There is Counterfeit Hall, so named, because a set of mounds for making spurious money was found there." (Simmons, 1948)

Bibliography: Simmons, Frank E. Coryell County History Stories, p. 66. Apparently unpublished. An uncorrected proof copy is on file in the Barker Texas History Center at the University of Texas. 1948.

Ref: TSS files

DEVIL'S CAVE (DEVIL'S LANE?) (DEVIL'S DEN?)

Coryell (?) County

Description: "Devil's Cave, so named for its located in a wild gloomy hollow, and the weird noises said to be heard there. The noises are caused by the particular contour of the cave's walls echoing back the moaning of the wind." (Simmons, 1948) This is almost certainly to be identified with Devil's Lane (also called Devil's Den) which is located just across the county line and in Bosque County. It is frequently reported to be in Coryell County.

Bibliography: Simmons, Frank E. Coryell County History Stories, p. 66. Apparently unpublished. An uncorrected proof copy is on file in the Barker Texas History Center at the University of Texas. 1948.

Ref: TSS files

GHOST HOLE

Coryell County

Shell Mountains 7.5' Quadrangle

Owner: U.S. Gov't (Fort Hood Military Reservation)

Description: The Host Hold is a cave once believed to connect with Saltpetre Cave. Its small vertical entrance, supposedly a few hundred yards northeast of that cave, was not found when the above cave was mapped. There is a story that two soldiers stationed near the cave one night were badly frightened by strange noises issuing from the cave. Strange lights seen on Shell Mountain are associated with this cave.

Ref: TSS files

LANDFORD'S CAVE

Coryell County

Description: "Landford's Cave is in the valley near Evant, named for Perry Landford, who established a ranch there in pioneer days." (Simmons, 1936)

Bibliography: Simmons, Frank E. History of Coryell County, p. 47. Coryell County News. 1936.

Ref: TSS files

LUTHER STOVALL'S CAVE

Coryell County

Owner: Luther Stovall

Description: "Here many years ago Luther Stovall began excavating a cave or rock shelter in a bluff on his farm. The remains showed it to predate any Spanish influence. Hundreds of stone artifacts belonging to the Neolithic stone age were found. The camp refuse had accumulated to several feet in depth. On many stones were carved symbols that could not be deciphered." (Simmons, 1948)

Bibliography: Simmons, Frank E. Coryell County History Stories, pp. 89-90. Apparently unpublished. An uncorrected proof copy is on file at the Barker Texas History Center at the University of Texas. 1948.

Ref: TSS files

ROBBERS CAVE

Coryell County

Description: "There is Robbers Cave, said to have been the rendezvous of a band of robbers." (Simmons, 1948)

Bibliography: Simmons, Frank E. Coryell County History Stories, p. 66. Apparently unpublished. An uncorrected proof copy is on file at the Barker Texas History Center at the University of Texas. 1948.

Ref: TSS files