

TEXAS SPELEOLOGICAL SURVEY

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THE CAVES OF EDWARDS COUNTY

Edited by James R. Reddell and A. Richard Smith

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TEXAS SPELEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Editor: James R. Reddell

Staff: Ruben M. Frank
David McKenzie

William H. Russell
A. Richard Smith

THE CAVES OF EDWARDS COUNTY

GEOLOGY

Edwards County, situated on the southern Edwards Plateau, is a land of gently rolling divide areas separated by gullies and canyons cut into the resistant limestones. Rocksprings, the county seat and principal town as well as the highest point in the county at 2410 feet above sea level, is headquarters of the sheep- and goat-raising economy of the county. The climate is characterized by low to moderate precipitation accompanied by fairly high average temperatures and subsequently high evaporation.

The Nueces River, forming a part of the eastern boundary, along with the South Llano, West Nueces, and Dry Devil's Rivers, provides the principal drainage for the county. The flow of the South Llano River is largely due to Seven Hundred Springs, one of the largest springs in the interior Edwards Plateau.

All rocks exposed in Edwards County are of Cretaceous age and from oldest to youngest are described here as the Glen Rose Limestone, lower unnamed formation, upper unnamed formation, Del Rio Clay, and Buda Limestone. Since no caves are known from the lowermost or the upper two formations, they will first be briefly described.

The exposed upper portion of the Glen Rose Limestone consists of alternating beds of resistant limestone and soft marl, recognized by stairstepped hillslopes. It outcrops only in the lower Nueces River valley.

The Del Rio Clay is found on the higher divides in the northern part of the county. It is composed of beds of marl and clay with some thin limestone and having a total thickness of about 20'. It may be recognized by a band of mesquite trees and bushes which it supports.

Outcrops of Del Rio Clay are usually protected by the thin Buda Limestone which overlies it. Although the Buda is a hard, fine-grained limestone, it is not known to be cavernous. It is also recognized by a distinctive vegetation--heavy growths of live oak. On the very highest divide areas in the north part of the county, the Buda may be overlain by thin remnants of the Eagle Ford Shale, consisting of not more than 10' of sandy brown crystalline limestone.

The two principal speleifers, or cave-bearing formations, in the county are the lower and upper unnamed formations of Lozo and Smith (1964). Formerly, these were treated as a single water-bearing unit, or aquifer, by A.T. Long (1962), and called the "Edwards and associated limestones." The lower unnamed formation (LUF) consists of about 50' of marly nodular limestone at the base overlain by 130' of massive, cherty rudistid-bearing limestone. This in turn is overlain by 135' of cherty dolostone and dolomitic limestone with some indications of gypsum beds having been leached out by ground water. Above the LUF is the upper unnamed formation (UUF) consisting of about 240' of massive, cherty, rudistid-bearing limestone. Above this lies the Del Rio Clay. In the southern part of the county the upper part of the LUF becomes more like the UUF so that the LUF and UUF merge into a single formation, the Devil's River Limestone.

In most of the northern two-thirds of the county the caves are apparently controlled by the stratigraphic positions of the UUF and the middle massive unit of the LUF. A very few caves appear to have formed in the lowest part of

the LUF, due partly to ground-water migration along the base of the LUF on top of the relatively impermeable Glen Rose Limestone.

The general geologic structure of Edwards County is simple - all strata dip very gently to the south about 10 to 12 feet per mile except in the northern part where dips are about 3 feet per mile to the northwest. The county is north of the major faulting of the Balcones fault zone, but there are a few faults, with displacements generally less than 30 to 40 feet, roughly paralleling the northeastward Balcones trend. A few faults northeast of Rocksprings trend north to northwest.

Water levels measured in wells in 1953-1955 by Long (1962, p. 21) showed that ground water in the "Edwards and associated limestones" moved south to southwest in most of the county, but southeast in the eastern and northeastern part of the county. Most of the water from the "Edwards and associated limestones" is discharged as spring flow into one of the major drainages; however, small amounts move into the adjacent counties to the south.

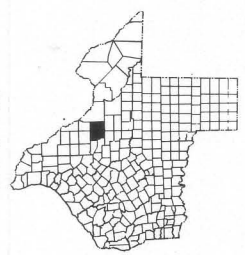
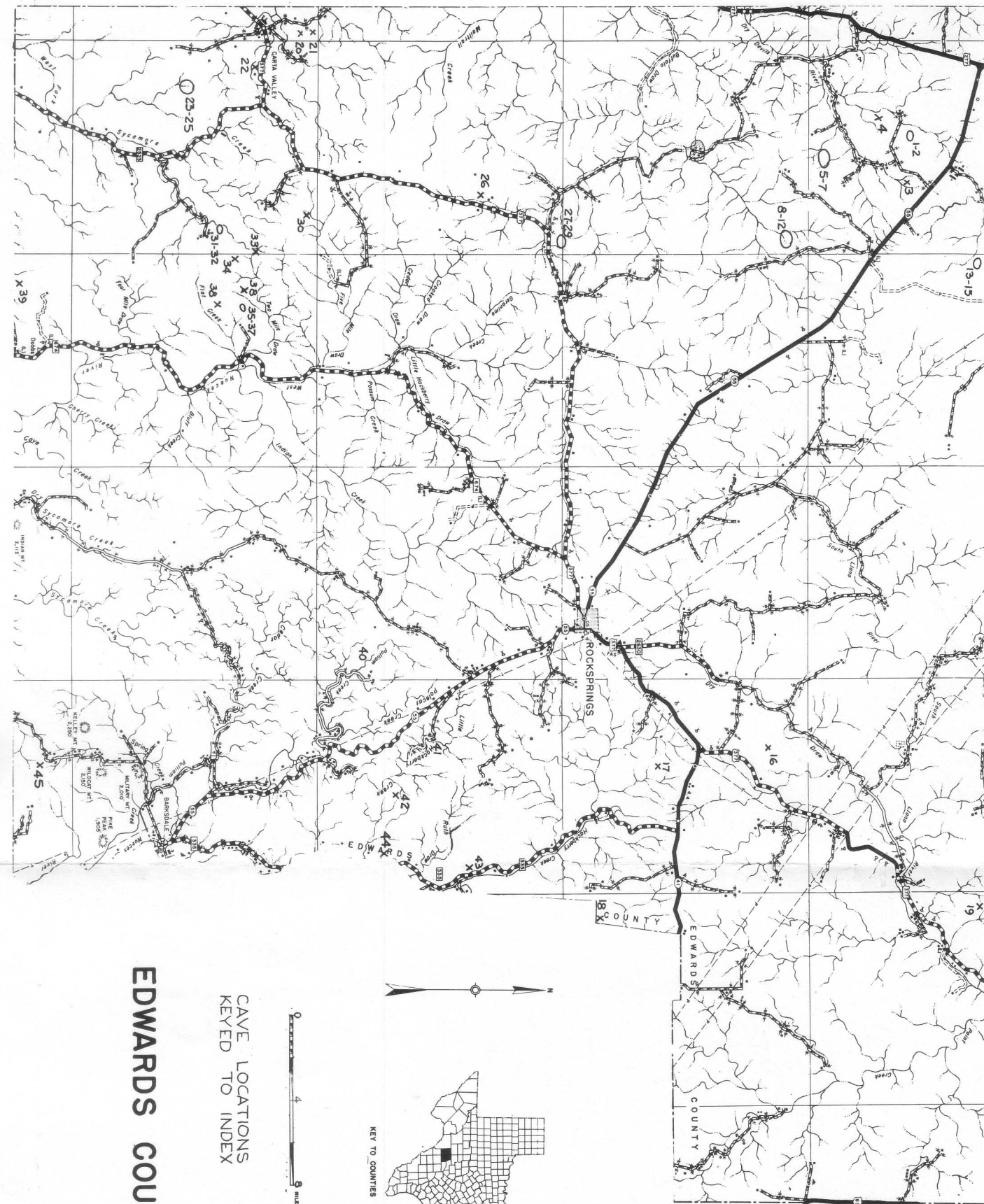
Caves are distributed fairly randomly throughout the county, with small local concentrations of small caves. The presence of large caves in all areas indicates that no one area is significantly better than any other for finding new caves. Perhaps more than any other factor, the distribution reflects the amount of work done on individual ranches; where a ranch has been visited only once the largest and best-known cave or caves are known; where it has been visited several times the smaller caves have been discovered. The area showing the least work and with, therefore, the greatest potential lies between RR 674 and Barksdale. The 47 recorded caves is certainly less than one-half of those which will be found in the county.

References: Long, A.T. 1962. Ground-water geology of Edwards County, Texas. Texas Water Commission Bull. 6208.

Lozo, F.L., and C.I. Smith. 1964. Revision of Comanche Cretaceous stratigraphic nomenclature, Southern Edwards Plateau, Southwest Texas. Gulf-Coast Assoc. of Geol. Societies, Trans. 14:285-307.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: We wish to express our appreciation to the following systematists for their identification of biologic material included in this report: carabid and pselaphid beetles - Dr. Thomas C. Barr, Jr., University of Kentucky; cirolanid isopods - Dr. Thomas Bowman, United States National Museum; millipeds - Dr. Nell Causey, Louisiana State University; collembola - Dr. Kenneth Christiansen, Grinnell College; ants - Dr. Arthur C. Cole, University of Tennessee; spiders and scorpions - Dr. Willis J. Gertsch, American Museum of Natural History; phalangids - Drs. Clarence and Marie Goodnight, Western Michigan University; roaches - Dr. Ashley Gurney, United States National Museum; staphylinid beetles - Mr. Lee Herman, Catholic University of America; amphipods - Mr. John Holsinger, University of Kentucky; cave crickets - Dr. Theodore H. Hubbell, University of Michigan; snails - Dr. Leslie Hubricht, Meridian, Mississippi; dermestid and langurid beetles - Dr. John M. Kingsolver, United States National Museum; catopid beetles - Mr. Stewart Peck, Northwestern University; porcellionid isopods - Dr. George A. Schultz, Duke University Marine Laboratory; alleculid and tenebrionid beetles - Dr. T.J. Spilman, United States National Museum.

NOTE: Because of the unusual length and expense of this issue it has been necessary to either split it into two separate reports or to issue it under two numbers. We feel that it is much more useful as one report, therefore we have printed it in this fashion.



KEY TO COUNTIES



CAVE LOCATIONS
KEYED TO INDEX

EDWARDS COUNTY

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2.	Runaway Cave	Rocksprings	100'	45'	56
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4.	Wyatt Cave	Rocksprings	900'	30'	65
5.	Wheat Cave No. 1	Rocksprings	150'	?	62
6.	Wheat Cave	Rocksprings	800' 4	60'	61
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22.	Chivo Cave	Carta Valley	?500'	100' 4	9
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24.	Punkin Cave	Carta Valley	250' 4	150'	49
25.	Blowhole Cave	Carta Valley	600' 4	260'	6
26.	Dunbar Cave	Carta Valley	1500'	50'	32
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ALTERNATE NAMES:

Adamson Cave - Jym's Cave
 Bat Cave - Punkin Cave; Rucker Bat Cave; Whitworth Ranch Bat Cave
 Big Tooth Cave - Fallen Stalagmite Cave
 Bishop's Cave - Shaw's Cave
 Camp Eagle Cave - Red Arrow Cave
 Dragool Cave - Dragoo Cave
 Erickson Ranch Cave - Dunbar Cave
 Goat Shelter - Whitworth Ranch Bat Cave
 Hell Hole - Devil's Sinkhole
 James Cave - Jym's Cave
 Jessup Cave - Lowell's Cave
 Lowell' Jessup's Cave - Lowell's Cave
 Punkin Head Cave - Punkin Cave
 Rain Drain Cave - Grandma's Rain Drain
 Rattlesnake Hole - Davis Rattlesnake Cave
 Swallow Cave - Saltillo Cave
 Thurman Ranch Cave - Painted Cave
 Top-of-the-Hill Cave - Hilltop Cave
 Turney Cave - Wyatt Cave
 Westfall Cave - Wyatt Cave

NOTE: GREEN CAVE (BAT CAVE; SERGEANT'S CAVE) has frequently been listed as being in Edwards County. It probably lies just south of the county line in Kinney County.

HARRISON CAVE (BOND CAVE) has usually been cited as being in Edwards County. It appears to lie just north of the county line in Sutton County.

KICKAPOO CAVE (COLUMN CAVE; HILLCOAT CAVE) has previously been placed in Edwards County. It probably is located in Kinney County.

PALACE CAVE has been previously listed as in Edwards County. It lies, however, just south of the county line in Kinney County.

TURKEY PENS CAVE (COX CAVE) has been reported as being in Edwards County. It is, however, east of the county line in Real County.

BAHD'S CAVE

Edwards County

Rocksprings 30' Quadrangle

Owner: Lee Allison (A Ranch)

Description: The entrance is 30' wide and 4' high; a low flat room 3'-4' high and 20'-30' wide extends about 30'. The floor is covered with silt, dead goats, etc., except near the back where it is of old guano. Near the end a low crawl on the right side slopes down and leads off nearly perpendicular to the main room. After about 10' the crawl becomes a room 2'-4' high and 15' wide, narrowing to 5' for another 20' and widening again to a room about 15'-30' wide, 3' high, and 50' long. This last room is floored with silt and some breakdown blocks. From this room three crawlways lead off, all too small to negotiate. (See map, page 7)

Ref: TSS files

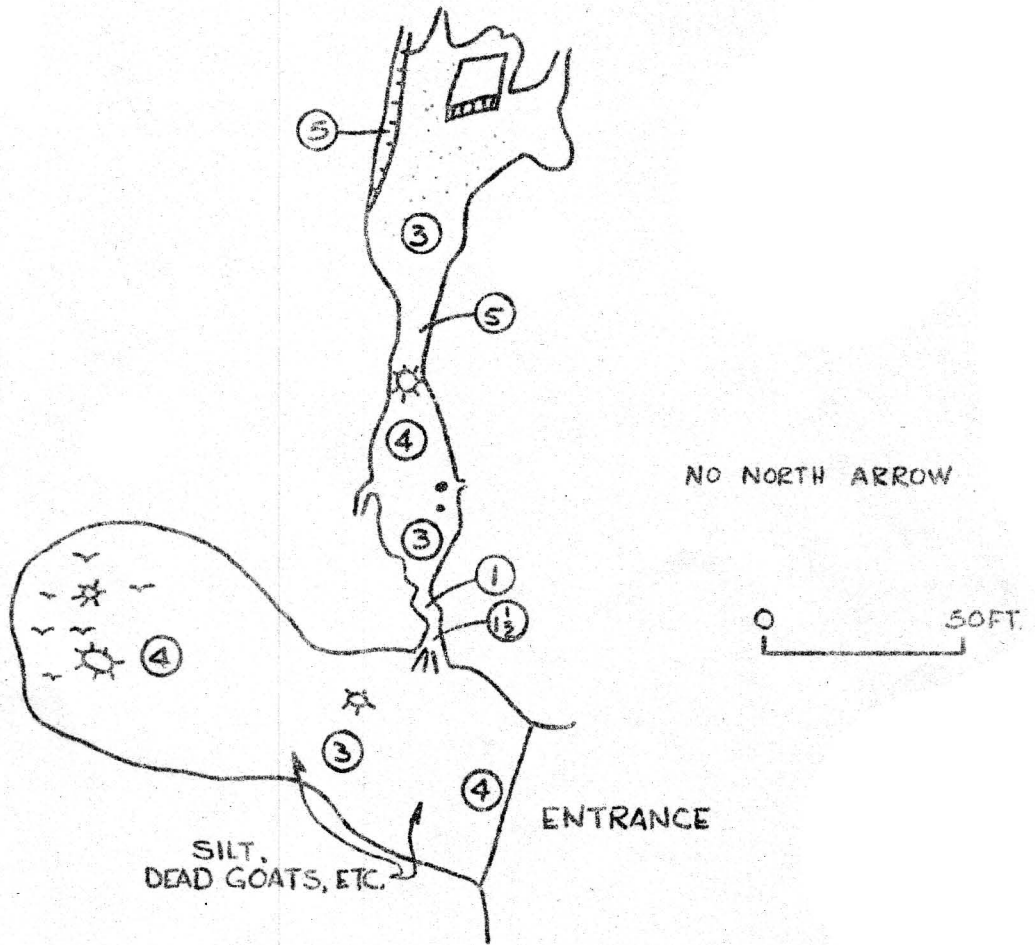
BLOWHOLE CAVE

Edwards County (#25)

Flat Rock 15' Quadrangle

Owner: Loys Newman

Description: The entrance to Blowhole Cave is a hole 1.5' high and wide at the bottom of a small draw. Just inside the entrance the passage widens to about 6' wide and slopes downward at a 12° angle. The height also gradually increases until about 20' from the entrance the passage is about 3' high. Here a steep slope leads downward 20' into a room about 20' high, 10' wide, and 25' long. From the end of this room a crawlway over and through breakdown leads to the bottom of a chimney leading to a room 60' long, 50' wide, sloping steeply to the west. From the lowest point of this room a crawlway leads back to the bottom of the chimney entering the room. On the south end of this room a small hole was enlarged to enter another room estimated to be 100' long and 80' wide. The floor of this room slopes steeply to a pit. Three domes 20'-30' high occur along the axis of the room. This room is floored with breakdown, cave coral, and calcite sand. The pit, about 4' x 4' at the top, drops very steeply downward for about 80' to an irregular room 40'-50' high and about 20' long with large breakdown blocks forming the walls. From this room two drops lead into a 30' long, 15'-20' wide room. The next drop leads into a room 60'-70' high and about 100' long. This room contains a drapery about one-foot wide at the top and 40' long, as well as large claw marks on the wall. From this room a slope leads to a room 10'-15' high, 80'-90' long, and containing crystal clear butterfly formations on the right wall. This room also contains more claw marks and probably the bones of the animal that made them. A tooth and a large bone were removed for identification. The animal is probably a bear which indicates another entrance existed to the cave since an animal the size of a bear could not enter the cave through the present entrance. From the bone room a slope leads to a crawl through breakdown for about 6' to a small room 8' high, 10' wide, and 20' long. Another breakdown crawl leads to the final room. This room is about 6' x 6' x 6' and is floored with red clay covered with a layer of black dirt. The total length of the cave is about 600' and the total depth about 260'.



BAHD'S CAVE
 EDWARDS CO., TEXAS
 SKETCH MAP BY UTSS

Biology: Collections were made on Sept. 4, 1965, by Bill Russell, and on Sept. 5, 1965, by R.C. Schroeder. Most of this material has not been identified. Russell's collections included harvestmen, beetles, staphylinid beetles, spiders, camel crickets, and mites parasitic on the crickets. R.C. Schroeder collected carabid beetles belonging to two species, Rhadine prob. n.sp., and R. howdeni (Barr and Lawrence).

Meteorology: Very strong currents of air flow from the cave during the afternoon and evening, while during the night and morning air enters the cave. This indicates that the present entrance is a lower entrance, which is to be expected since the cave trends under higher land with the known entrance in the bottom of a small hollow. Accurate air flow measurements were taken several times a day during Project Deep. A detailed description of the air flow will be included in the final project report.

History: Blowhole Cave was discovered by members of the Abilene Grotto during their work in the Deep Cave area. The then accessible part of the cave was explored at that time and a dam was built downstream from the entrance to force more water to enter the cave in hopes that the increased flow would open new passages. The first part of the cave was mapped by Bill Russell, Sharon Wiggins, and Ross Felton during Project Deep. At this time it was discovered that the air flowing from the entrance to the cave came from a small hole in the north edge of the first big room. David Meredith and Eugene Haydon of the Balcones Grotto enlarged the hole until a rock too large to move blocked their way. This was dynamited just as the project ended, leaving only enough time to explore the next room. Two weeks later a return trip was made and the entire cave was mapped by Meredith, Haydon, and Robert Schroeder of the Trans-Pecos Speleological Society.

Bibliography: Anonymous. 1965. News: Abilene, N.S.S. Texas caver, 10(2):40.
 Anonymous. 1965a. Project Deep statistics. Ibid, 10(9):172.
 Estes, J. 1965. 1965 T.S.A. Convention... 'Success' is the word! Ibid, 10(4):74-79.
 Estes, J. 1965a. Project Deep. Ibid, 10(6):117.
 Estes, J. 1965b. Project Deep. Ibid, 10(7):127-130.
 Estes, J. 1965c. Project Deep. Ibid, 10(9):169-170, 181, 185.
 Reddell, J.R. 1966. A checklist of the cave fauna of Texas. II. Insecta. Texas Journal of Science. (In press)
 Yearly, G., and C. Kunath. 1965. Photos. Texas Caver, 10(9):170-175.
 Ref: TSS files

CATHOLE CAVE

Edwards County (#31)

Carta Valley 15' Quadrangle

Owner: E. T. Rucker

Description: "The entrance is a long, narrow slit in the rock. The crack slopes at about 45 degrees and requires a rope. The cave has been explored for about 300'. No one has attempted to explore the cave further. A number of coons and bobcats have been trapped near the entrance." (Widener, n.d.)

Bibliography: Widener, D.L., ed. n.d. Edwards Co. Texas Cave Survey, 1(4):24
 Reprinted in: Speleo Digest 1958: 1-298. 1959.

Ref: TSS file

CHIVO CAVE

Edwards County (#22)

Carta Valley 15' Quadrangle

Owner: Walt Carruthers

Description: The entrance is a 4' in diameter hole dropping 100' to a 45' wide room, from which a 200' long crawlway extends. This formation decorated crawl leads to a 50' x 75' room, from which a short passage extends to the final room which is known as The Ballroom due to the flat floor. The Ballroom is about 200' x 60' and contains, at the back of the room, a high unclimbable chimney.

Ref: Carl Kunath

COLLAPSE CAVE

Edwards County (#20)

Carta Valley 15' Quadrangle

Owner: York Newman

Description: Collapse Cave is a small breakdown-type cave about 35' deep and 60' long located on the side of a hill. It appears to represent the remains of an almost completely collapsed cave room. It was visited by James Estes and Tom Meador in 1965.

Ref: James Estes

COON LATRINE

Edwards County (#8)

No quadrangle

Owner: Ralph Lozano

Description: The entrance is a very small sink on top of a low hill. It measures 4' long and 3' wide and 2' deep. A brushy hackberry tree grows in the sink. A small crawlway leading gently down to one side of the sink goes into the cave, which is a room about 40' long and 20' wide. There are small dirty crawlways leading from the end of the room about 10' before becoming too small. A lower room is located below and to the right of the entrance and measures about 15' long and 6' wide. The total length of the cave is about 50' and the total depth below the entrance is about 20'. The cave is inhabited by raccoons, cave crickets, and small beetles. One large black beetle was found in the entrance sink. The cave was explored on Feb. 15, 1964, by Jim Estes, Tom Meador, and Cleo Lozano.

Ref: James Estes

CRACKED EARTH CAVE

Edwards County (#9)

No quadrangle

Owner: Ralph Lozano

Description: The entrance is located on the gentle rise of a hill and about 50' from a giant live oak tree. The entrance sink is almost filled with one- and two-foot boulders, but a small space on the east side allows entrance. The cave is all on one level, and the floor is composed of dried mud with large cracks in it. It is about 100' long, and when visited in the

fall of 1963 by Tom Meador, Cleo Lozano, and Jim Estes it was almost over-run with cave crickets. There are small domes in the ceiling in several places which allow the explorers to stand upright. The tops of these domes are perhaps no more than one or two feet from the surface.

Ref: James Estes

CRAIG ROCK SHELTER (SITE NO. 108)

Edwards County (#40)

Hackberry 15' Quadrangle

Owner: R.T. (Bob) Craig

Description: Craig Rock Shelter is located in an eastward-facing bluff overlooking a river canyon and is at elevation 2,250'. "A talus slope along the base of the cliff runs from the floors of the shelters to the broad, partially wooded stream bed about one hundred feet below. The shelters themselves are eroded recesses in a marly limestone stratum about thirty feet thick, overlain and underlain by more resistant crystalline limestone beds... The Craig Shelters...are open to the east and lie along a north-south line. They are numbered I through V from north to south. Including the ledge at the southern end of the last shelter, they stretch for almost 500 feet along the face of the cliff, each in the same horizontal plane, separated from each other by narrow partitions of uneroded marl. Shelter I is a natural amphitheatre, 54 feet wide at the opening and almost 20 feet high. It extends for 83 feet into the hillside. The up-sloping rear portion of the stone floor and the encroachment of a ledge on each side of the cave narrows the area covered by occupational debris to a space 50 feet long and 40 feet wide at the mouth where it merges with the talus, and 30 feet wide at the rear. The maximum depth of the deposit was reached 31 feet from the inner edge of the midden at 78 inches. A pit dug by the landowner several years ago near the center of the deposit, was eight feet in diameter and four feet deep at the time of this excavation. The natural stone partition between Shelters I and II is 15 feet thick at its outer extremity. Shelter II is semi-circular in outline, 66 feet wide at the entrance, which is 16 feet high, and 59 feet deep. The rear half of the shelter is bare stone which slopes gently upwards to within six feet of the roof. The cultural debris reached a maximum depth of 39 inches, 20 feet from the rear of the deposits. The wall between Shelters II and III is three feet thick. Shelter III is roughly crescentic in outline. The entrance is 79 feet wide and 18 feet high. Although it extends into the bluff for 57 feet, an ancient cave-in of the overhanging cliff has strewn all but the innermost few feet of the shelter with large boulders. Very little evidence of habitation was found here, and the midden material was not more than one foot in thickness. Although Shelters III and IV have a common roof over their outer edges, they are separated towards the rear by a marly projection 17 feet wide. Shelter IV was also affected by the rock fall which piled boulders in Shelter III so that the entrance of IV, while it is 77 feet wide, is only three feet high at the north end. It reaches 18 feet in height, however, at the southern end and projects 47 feet into the cliff. The crescent-shaped inner 20 feet of the shelter was covered with midden material to a maximum depth of two feet. These deposits were thin toward the rear of the shelter, but thickened to their maximum depth where they mingled with the debris fallen from the roof. Cultural material was found both above and below some of the fallen blocks of stone. Eight feet of marl separate Shelter IV and Shelter V. Shelter V is semi-circular in general outline, although it is

elongated to the rear by two small solution crevasses which run back into the bluff some 20 feet. The outer 40 feet of the shelter expands to an entrance 56 feet wide and about 20 feet high. Only a very few inches of ashy midden material was found here, and no artifacts were present. Adjoining Shelter V on the south is a ledge 150 feet long and eight to ten feet wide. The southernmost 35 feet of this ledge is ten feet wide and covered with eight to ten inches of midden material and some burnt rocks on the outer edge. The only modification of these natural dwellings attempted by the inhabitants was the erection of fills or windbreaks in the mouth of Shelter I." (Gray, 1942) (See map, page 12)

Archeology: Several pictographs are present in the shelters, with many more having been almost completely obliterated. These are described and reproduced in Jackson (1938) and Gray (1942). Six infant and one adult burials were discovered, one in Shelter I, four in Shelter II, and two in Shelter IV. Animal bones found in association with two of the burials included rabbit, deer, vulture, and turkey. The shells of snails, Bulinulus sp., were also found near the graves. Artifacts recovered from the site include projectile points, knives, pointed blades, choppers, gravers, perforators, scrapers, metates, manos, pitted stones, painted pebbles, bone awls, bone knapping tools, bone weaving tools, bone beads, bone "net spacers", antler knapping tools, fire drills, arrow or dart fragments, "bow" fragments, "club head", wrapped sticks, a ground stick, and various vegetal artifacts. These artifacts are described in detail by Gray (1942). On the basis of his study he concluded "that the Craig site occupies a marginal position between Central Texas and the Pecos River areas both geographically and culturally, sharing with them a South Plains and an earlier Central Texas horizon." (Gray, 1942)

History: The site was first examined by A.T. Jackson of the University of Texas. Following a preliminary examination he began excavation of the site on March 16, 1934. Unfortunately much of the material was incorrectly re-numbered and thus much information lost. The work was completed on April 3, 1934.

Bibliography: Gray, W.R. 1942. Archaeology of the Craig Rock Shelters, Upper Nueces Valley, Edwards County, Texas. Unpublished M.A. Thesis. University of Texas. vi / 79 pp.
 Jackson, A.T. 1938. Picture-Writing of Texas Indians, pp. 241-243, 329-331. University of Texas Publ. 3809.
 Jackson, A.T. 1941. Pendants and their uses. Bull. Texas Arch. Paleontol. Soc. 13:9-45.

Ref: TSS files

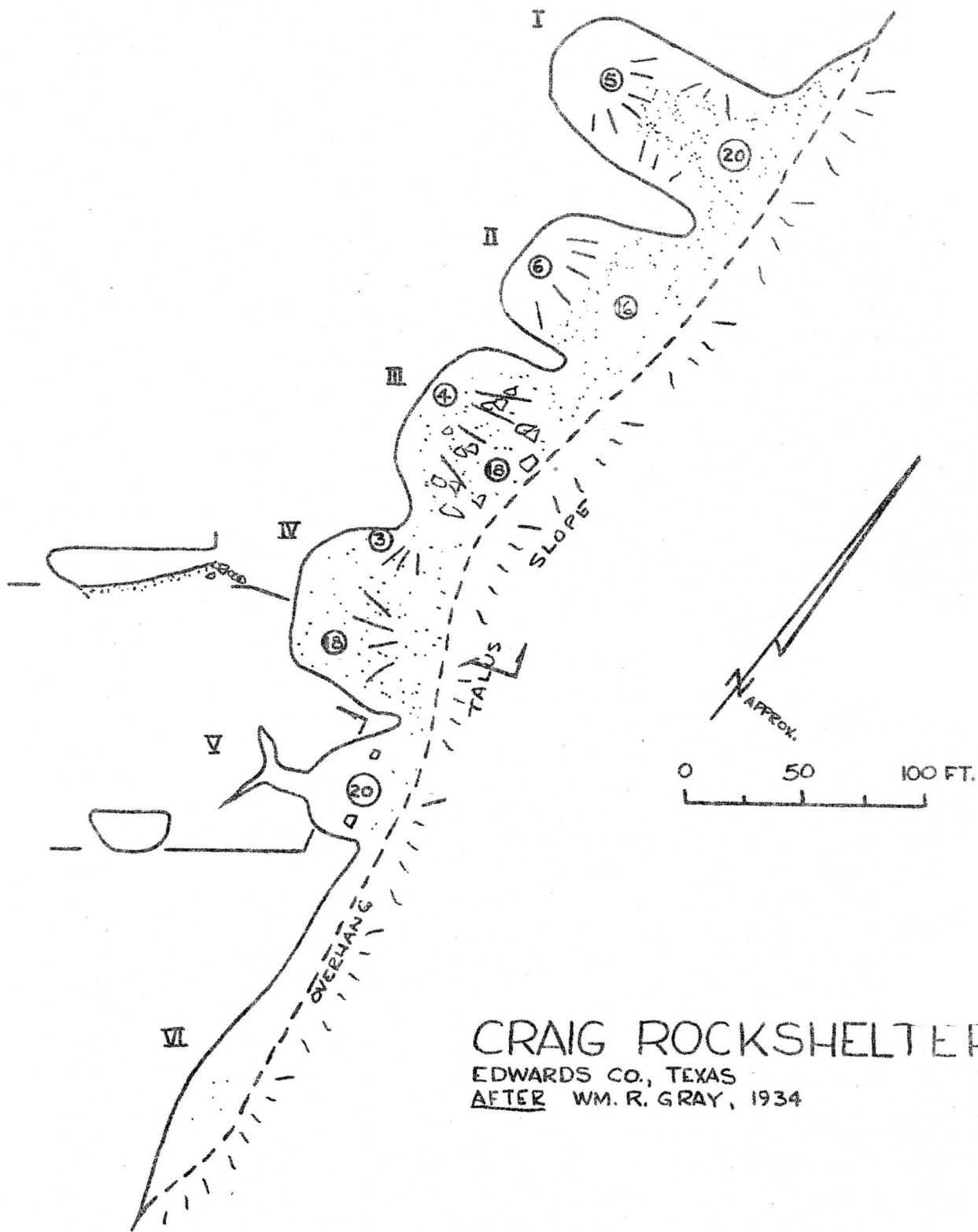
LA CUEVA DEL HUMO

Edwards County (#10)

No quadrangle

Owner: Ralph Lozano

Description: There are four small entrances to the cave. Three of these measure about 3' in diameter and drop 18' to the floor of the entrance room. The fourth and northernmost hole contains a rotten ladder and two small hackberry trees. It is possible to chimney the 8' drop. The entrance room measures 30' x 20' and has a small pile of talus in the center. In a southwesterly direction the cave continues for about 125' and ends in a low-ceilinged room with a few small stalactites and one small area of flowstone. There is some breakdown



CRAIG ROCKSHELTER
 EDWARDS CO., TEXAS
 AFTER WM. R. GRAY, 1934

on the right just inside the room. From this room a crawlway 25' long goes to the left, makes a right-angle turn and after 8' there is another low-ceilinged room. The floor of this room is damp silt and is rather flat except at the far end where it slopes into three openings. The opening to the left goes only 25', the one to the right extends about 10' down into a crawlway too small to negotiate, while the middle opening continues for some 35' before ending in breakdown that has shown evidence of collapse with rock layers lying at a 15° angle. There are no places large enough to get through. The total length of the cave is 272' and the total depth below the entrance is 36'. During the winter months with moisture in the rear of the cave meeting the cold air in the entrance room it is said that a "smoke" haze fills the room, hence the cave's name. (See map, page 14)

Biology: There are numerous nests of the Cave Swallow, Petrochelidon fulva pallida, in the entrance room and a few birds were seen on Feb. 15, 1964. There was evidence of habitation by bats in the last room. Several brown spiders were noted, as well as a few cellar spiders. Many raccoons make their home in the cave.

History: The cave has been known by the Lozano relatives for many years, although none had entered the crawlway. Several ranch hands had spent two-to-three hours in the cave and had evidently checked it all out. There are soot marks on the ceiling of the crawlway. The cave was explored and mapped in November, 1963, by James Estes and Tom Meador. A second trip was made to the cave on Feb. 15, 1965, by James Estes, Tom Meador, and Cleo Lozano.

Ref: James Estes

LA CUEVA PROXIMA ENCINO GRANDE

Edwards County (#12)

No quadrangle

Owner: Ralph Lozano

Description: The entrance is in a small sink 3' deep and filled with small breakdown. On the southeast side of the sink a duck-under leads to the cave, a low-ceilinged room about 75' long and floored with hard dry mud blocks. There are two small domes in the ceiling, allowing visitors to stand. The cave at times takes overflow from a wide, silty draw. A small filled cave entrance is nearby. Fauna includes cave crickets, raccoons, and brown spiders. It was explored on Feb. 15, 1964, by James Estes, Tom Meador, and Cleo Lozano.

Ref: James Estes

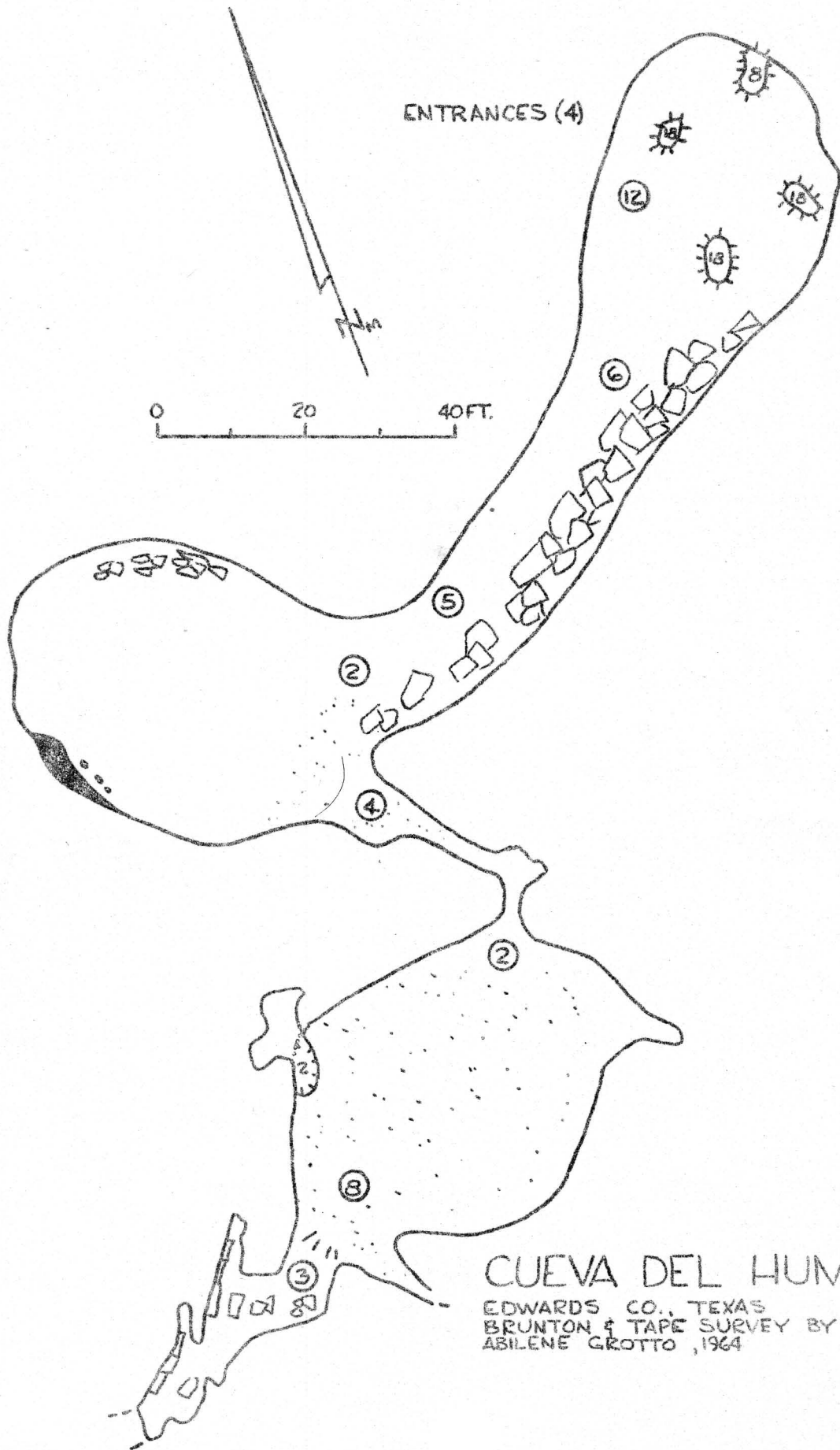
DAVIS RATTLESNAKE CAVE (RATTLESNAKE HOLE)

Edwards County (#27)

Carta Valley 15' Quadrangle

Owner: S. Merlin Davis

Description: A crawl-in entrance leads to solution rooms on one level. The total length is about 200'. Rattlesnakes are reported to abound. The cave was first reported by D.S. Kyser of the University of Texas Grotto in Sept. 1956. A trip by the Corpus Christi Grotto was made on the weekend of Feb. 22, 1957. Present on the trip were Harvey Jackson, Bob Money, Jerry Harwood, Paul Hanson, Bob Moore, and Buddy "Hammock" Frank.



ENTRANCES (4)

0 20 40 FT.

CUEVA DEL HUMO

EDWARDS CO., TEXAS
BRUNTON & TAPE SURVEY BY
ABILENE GROTTO, 1964

Bibliography: Money, R. 1957. Davis Ranch and Dragool cave field trip. Texas Caver, II(2):6.

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Ref: TSS files

DEEP CAVE

Edwards County (#23)

Flat Rock 15' Quadrangle

Owner: Loys Newman

Description: The entrance to Deep Cave is a shallow sink about 5' in diameter and 3' deep. Two passages extend from the bottom of this sink. One leads through a small crawl into a series of upper level rooms, while the other leads to a talus slope dropping down into a large Entrance Room. To the right from the Entrance Room it is possible to climb up and over breakdown into a series of upper level rooms and passages containing many small formations and a small amount of guano. These in turn connect with the other passage from the entrance. A pit along one wall of these upper level rooms drops down to the main passage. From the Entrance Room a steep, slick slope over flowstone and massive breakdown leads down to a junction. By following the left wall an area of massive breakdown, most of it cemented with cave coral and flowstone, is reached. This forms a tremendous 3-D maze which when finally explored all seems to lead either to dead-ends among the breakdown or else to the edge of a 57' drop into the West Chasm. At the bottom of this drop is to be found a room about 50' long, 20' wide, and irregular in shape. The floor is of dirt and there appear to be no leads from the room, which is the deepest surveyed part of the cave at 253' below the entrance. By keeping generally right from the entrance room and below the main slope it is possible to enter two passages. One of these leads into a bat room which in turn leads up a pit into the other passage. This area is known as Swiss Cheese Corridor. Much of the walls is covered with calcite sand and, in places there is a confusing series of passages. About 40' beyond this area a flowstone slide on the left leads down into a room known as the Forest of Columns. Here many tall columns have grown with only inches or a few feet separating them from each other. A drop-off along the wall of this room leads down into the East Chasm. Here is to be found the irregular-shaped Helictite Room. The main passage from the Forest of Columns extends back around to the right where it is intersected by the pit from the upper levels near the entrance. At this point bear scratches and bones have been found. Two passages, one an upper and the other a lower route and separated mostly by breakdown, extend from this point. These lead into the Crooked Broomstick Room, which is about 8' high and 15' in diameter. Two passages continue from this room as before, but combine in a 10' high room at a depth of 135' below the entrance. From this point two low passages extend, joining just before the Nut Cracker Chimney. Beyond this point the cave becomes extremely complex, becoming a large series of breakdown crawls and rooms. No attempt is here made to describe this area, but reference is made to the accompanying map of the cave. The area from before the Nut Cracker Chimney was not surveyed prior to the Project Deep and is largely incorrect. A better map of the cave should be available in the next few months. It is, perhaps sufficient to say that much of the cave resembles an enormous breakdown-filled room. There are, however, entirely solution rooms, domes, passages or parts of passages, etc. These present considerable problems in

interpreting the cave's origin. It is hoped that the geologist for Project Deep will present a detailed account of the geologic structure of the cave and analyse some aspects of its speleogenesis. The breakdown in the cave is generally well-cemented, but in some places it is quite loose and on several occasions large boulders have been dislodged. The air temperature in the cave ranges from 76° to 78°, but lower winter temperatures are certainly to be expected in the upper levels where circulation is greater. The humidity of the upper level has been measured at 79%. (See map, page 18)

Paleontology: The bones of a black bear, Ursus americanus, a raccoon, Procyon lotor, and a rabbit, Lepus sp., have been found in the cave. This material was collected by Pete Lindsley in 1963 and identified by Bob H. Slaughter of the Shuler Museum of Paleontology, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas.

Biology: A collection of invertebrates was made on Sept. 4, 1965, by James Reddell and David McKenzie. As of this date only the carabid beetles have been identified. The following animals were collected: camel crickets, harvestmen, hemiptera, small beetles, collembola, staphylinid beetles, thysanura, snails, scorpions, whip-scorpions, spiders, mites, a 7" lithobiid centipede, a scutigeraid centipede, carabid beetles (Rhadine babcocki and R. howdeni), and millipeds (Carbala sp. and Speodesmus sp.) The cave is also inhabited by a population of the Texas Barking Frog, Eleutherodactylus latrans. A few bats live in the cave and a female bird, probably a wren, was seen nesting near the entrance.

History: The cave was first investigated by a ranch hand, but apparently he did not enter the cave. It was discovered by Preston McMichael and other Houston cavers in August, 1961, and first reported on without name in October, 1961. A second trip was made in September, 1961, and further exploration carried out. Preston McMichael and Ray Ellis visited the cave during the Easter vacation of 1962 and partially mapped it, continuing their exploration into the West Chasm. An additional trip was made in July, 1962, and the map completed to the bottom of the West Chasm and additional explorations made. On Feb. 23, 1963, Jim Estes from Abilene, Pete Lindsley, Norman Robinson, and George Yeary from Dallas, and Dale Owens and Preston McMichael of Houston visited the cave for additional exploration. A large new passage was discovered by Ray Ellis and Preston McMichael in January, 1963. On June 22, 1963, Pete Lindsley and George Yeary visited the cave and discovered the bones of a bear. On the weekend of July 6-7, 1963, a trip was made to the cave by Dallas and Houston cavers, including Fred Tart, Jim Barbee, Steve Craddock, Pete Lindsley, Preston McMichael, and Rex Shepperd. They visited the Bear Pit and the West Chasm. About this same time a photographic trip was made by George Gray, Jim Medlin, and Jim Estes. On Jan. 25, 1964, George Gray, Dewayne Dickey, and Jim Estes made a trip to the cave. On Nov. 21, 1964, George Gray, Bart Crisman, and Jim Estes began a map of the cave. While in the cave they met Ray Ellis, John Ellis, and another Houston caver. On Dec. 12, 1964, Bryant Lilly, Jim Estes, Don Hallinger, Carl Kunath, and Jerry Johnson visited the cave and made some new discoveries. On Jan. 30, 1965, members of the Abilene and Dallas-Fort Worth Grottoes visited the cave. On July 24, 1965, a trip was made by Jim Estes, Dewayne Dickey, Don Winkles, and Clyde White to conclude plans for the TSA Project, Project Deep, and to check additional leads and make some additional surveys. This project was held Sept. 3-6, 1965, and was attended by over 100 cavers from all over the state. A full

report on this project will be published at a later date. Although about 2200' were mapped during the project, no major discoveries were made and much remained unsurveyed.

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DEVIL'S SINKHOLE (HELL HOLE)

Edwards County (#17)

Rocksprings 30' Quadrangle

Owner: Clarence V. Whitworth

Description: The entrance to the cave is located on top of a relatively flat ridge. The entrance is about 60' in diameter and drops vertically on all sides for about 140'. After a few feet it is deeply undercut. Two small holes on the east side of the main entrance allow access to a steeply sloping ledge about 50' down. This ledge is, itself, undercut so that it is not possible to descend from this point without the use of ladders or rope. At one time sheep wire was strung through these holes, but this has since been cut down. At the bottom of the drop a steep breakdown slope descends on all sides for an additional 160' to a series of lakes encircling the breakdown "mountain". Although in a few places these lakes may be reached directly by way of the slope in most places it is necessary to crawl through and among large breakdown slabs for the last 30'. These lakes are quite deep and divers have reached depths of 40'-80' without reaching a bottom. The breakdown is quite loose and the floor of the lakes covered with silt so that attempts at underwater exploration have all been unsuccessful. The depth of the cave was originally reported to be 409', but an accurate survey revealed the true depth to be about 310'. The actual dimensions of the room, reported on occasion to be one-mile in circumference, are about 240' wide by 360' long. The ceiling of the entrance room is sharply terraced and hung with moss and stalactites so that the view from the bottom of the breakdown mountain out of the entrance is among the most impressive in Texas. The cave, surrounded by legends of vast rooms and hidden treasure, has proven to consist of one large room and the much smaller lake rooms. (See map, page 31)

Biology: The Devil's Sinkhole is one of the more prominent of the large bat caves of Texas. The colony of Mexican free-tail bats, Tadarida brasiliensis mexicana, is estimated at 8,000,000, but this may be too high an estimate. A small colony of the Little Brown Bat, Myotis velifer incautus, is also present; and a few individuals of the eastern pipistrel, Pipistrellus subflavus subflavus, are usually present. A single specimen of the long-eared bat, Corynorhinus rafinesquei, has been reported. This species normally ranges much to the west so that this record may represent a specimen that has strayed out of its normal range. Also present in large numbers in the cave is the Cave Swallow, Petrochelidon fulva pallida. The following observations have been made on the bird fauna of this cave: Swallows nest on the slanting roof of the lower chamber 110 or more feet below ground level and high above the sides of the rock mound. A source of mud for nests is provided by water which seeps from the sides of the sink, wetting soil that has accumulated on the narrow limestone ledges and dripping to the mound of rock and guano below. Brown Towhees (Pipilo fuscus) and Tufted Titmice (Parus bicolor) were seen to enter the sinkhole and forage over moss and lichens on the lower ledge of the sink about 100 feet below ground level. A Canyon Wren (Catherpes mexicanus), presumably a resident in the sink, foraged on ledges 70 feet down. Horned Owls (Bubo virginianus) also nest on ledges in the sink. On the morning of September 21, 1956, first indication that swallows were preparing to leave the cave was a chorus of chattering calls at 6:10 a.m., given by birds in the lower chamber before they entered the sink but clearly audible from ground level. Shortly thereafter a compact flock of about 100 birds appeared at the base of the sink, executed

three rapid ascending spirals, and emerged from the entrance in close formation, flying at high speed and calling continuously. Other groups of from 25 to 100 birds followed until an estimated total of 500 birds had emerged." (Selander and Baker, 1957) Although a few Cliff Swallows, Petrochelidon pyrrhonota, have been observed flying with the main group of birds, none have ever been seen to enter the cave or found in the cave. A raccoon, Procyon lotor, was found with a broken leg at the bottom of the entrance drop; its broken leg probably attested to a fall from the ledge. Several species of snakes have been observed at the bottom of the entrance, but the only one that has been definitely identified is the rattlesnake, Crotalus atrox. Floyd Potter in 1948 observed the isopod, Cirolanides texensis Benedict, in the cave waters; it was later collected and positively identified by James K. Baker. Other collections of invertebrates in the cave include collection of the beetle, Rhadine howdeni, in August, 1950, by R.W. Strandtmann and on March 22, 1959, by Ralph Ewers. A mite, Teinocoptes lasionycteris, was taken from the bat, Tadarida brasiliensis mexicana, on Aug. 15, 1959. Recent collections include one on Oct. 26, 1963, by James Reddell and John Porter, and one on Feb. 14, 1965, by James Reddell. The material taken in these last trips, as well as on all other trips, is included in the following faunal list.

Gordian worm -- taken from soil below entrance

Isopods

Cirolanides texensis Benedict -- troglobite

Unidentified sow bugs -- troglophile or trogloxene

Amphipods

Stygonectes sp. -- troglobite

Millipeds

Abacion texense (Loomis) -- accidental

Gosiulus sp. -- accidental

Speodesmus echinourus Loomis -- troglobite

Pseudoscorpions -- taken from bat guano

Spiders

Cicurina sp. -- troglobite

Cicurina varians Gertsch and Mulaik -- troglophile

Eperigone maculata Banks -- accidental

Islandiana sp. -- troglophile

Pirata sedentarius Montgomery -- accidental

Achaearanea porteri (Banks) -- troglophile

Mites

Teinocoptes lasionycteris (Boyd and Bernstein)

Collembola

Pseudosinella petterseni Borner -- troglophile

Cave crickets

Ceuthophilus (Ceuthophilus) sp. -- trogloxene

Ceuthophilus (Ceuthophilus)? secretus Scudder -- trogloxene

Ceuthophilus (Geotettix) cunicularis Hubbell -- trogloxene

Beetles

Dembidion sp. -- troglophile

Rhadine howdeni (Barr and Lawrence) -- troglophile

Ptomaphagus (Adelops) sp. -- troglophile

Belonuchus sp., nr noquinus Casey -- troglophile

Stilicolina condei Jarrige

Psocids

Flies

Moths

Bats

Corynorhinus rafinesquei pallescens (Miller) -- troglaxene

Myotis velifer incautus (Allen) -- troglaxene

Pipistrellus hesperus (Allen) -- troglaxene

Pipistrellus subflavus subflavus (Cuvier) -- troglaxene

Tadarida brasiliensis mexicana (Saussure) -- troglaxene

Raccoons

Procyon lotor (Linnaeus)

Cave swallows

Petrochelidon fulva pallida -- troglaxene

Brown towhee

Pipilo fuscus Swainson -- accidental

Tufted titmouse

Parus bicolor Linnaeus -- accidental

Canyon wren

Catherpes mexicanus (Swainson) -- troglaxene

Horned owl

Bubo virginianus (Gmelin) -- troglaxene

Rattlesnake

Crotalus atrox Baird and Girard -- accidental

Non-poisonous snakes

Geology: The entrance to the cave is in the upper unnamed formation (UUF), stratigraphically not far below the overlying Del Rio Clay, which outcrops on the dirt road to the cave. From all appearances the Devil's Sinkhole represents long-continued stoping, or collapse, into a fairly sizable chamber below. The presently-known cave extends almost through the upper dolomitic part of the lower unnamed formation (LUF). Conceivably, a horizontal elongated room formed in the middle member of the LUF, much like parts of Blackstone Cave in Terrell County, and was widened beyond the point where the roof arch could support the weight of the overlying rock. Based on the volume of the present cave, exclusive of the underwater section, the pre-collapse room could have had dimensions on the order of 350' by 550' by 30' high. Approximately the upper 225' of the cave are in the UUF.

Hydrology: The "lakes" in the cave form a stream which flows very slowly from the northwest to the southeast across the bottom of the cave. A water sample was taken in the cave on March 4, 1939, and analysed by the State Board of Water Engineers. The results of this analysis follow:

Total dissolved solids (calc.)	-- 224
Calcium (Ca)	-- 67
Magnesium (Mg)	-- 13
Sodium and Potassium (Na / K)	-- 2
Bicarbonate (HCO ₃)	-- 244
Sulphate (SO ₄)	-- 10
Chloride (Cl)	-- 12
Nitrate (NO ₃)	-- less than 20 parts per million
Fluoride (F)	-- -
Total hardness as CaCO ₃ (calc.)	-- 223

History: Tom Meador (1965) has prepared a brief history of the Devil's Sinkhole, which is reprinted in its entirety below. A few instances which he has omitted, particularly later history, is summarized at the end of his article. ©It is not known who discovered the sinkhole but some accounts

claim it was discovered as early as 1867, though it is located well beyond the frontier of that time. In 1876 Ammon Billings drove 400 hogs up onto the plateau to feed on the heavy mast. While out hunting one day with several other men, they saw some Indians and fired at them. The Indians fell and Billings started to rush them but was persuaded by Captain Wells that the Indians' disappearance might be a ruse. They came back the next day and found blood on the ground where the Indians had disappeared. While reconnoitering through the high grass they walked up on the brink of the sinkhole. Their wives were invited up to see 'a helluva hole in the ground.' The women agreed that it was quite a hole, but disliked the perhaps warranted profanity. They suggested that 'The Devil's Sinkhole' would do just as well. Frank S. Gray wrote the following in his memoirs Pioneering in Southwest Texas: 'It was the talk and wonder of the cowboys everywhere, and they came from far and near to look at it. Large swarms of honey bees were in the open crevices between the strata of the rock wall of the.... cave, some ten or twenty feet down from the top. The appetizing....comb honey, so near, yet so far-could be seen by the hungry cowboys.... No one would think of suspending himself with ropes in an effort to get the honey and face the stinging bees. Some of the cowboys, however, would shoot at the honey with their pistols, but they only broke it loose and watched it fall down the deep hole below; but that did not satisfy their ravenous appetites. One summer afternoon after we had watered all the saddle horses and were loafing around the camp with nothing to do, we decided to take some crowbars....and go up to the big....cavern and roll off into it some of the large rocks that were lying around its edge. When we got there we found it easy to roll the big stones into its mouth,...when a huge stone that weighed possibly four or five hundred pounds fell several hundred feet unimpeded and struck the bottom. Although it was hard limestone, the fall from so great a height would break the.... stones into hundreds of fragments which would scatter and roll down the steep, slanting floor....and make a noise that sounded like distant thunder. After we had rolled about all the heaviest stones we could find into the subterranean cavern...., we thought [it] to be [un]occupied by any living creature to our astonishment thousands of bats began flying up from the bottom. The jar made by the heavy stones falling...no doubt alarmed them. They had to fly straight up from the bottom of the cave to reach the top. There seemed to be thousands of them.There were so many one could hardly see through them as they reached the top and the open air. We sportive and mischievous boys began throwing rocks at them across the cave as they flew out. They were so thick we killed two or three every throw. When they reached the top of the cave into the open air, they all turned north and scattered out flying in the direction of the old Ranger camp.... We remained about the cavern for a long time looking at the curious creatures. We got more pleasure and excitement out of watching those winged mammals of the night than we obtained by rolling the rocks into the sinkhole.... when the beast of the field, ceased coming out, we boys gathered up the crowbars and went back to camp." Who first entered the sink is unknown; one of the oldest names and dates carved on the rock at the bottom is H.S. Barber, Oct. 19, 1889. Judge John W. Hill and party explored the cave in 1899. In their exploration they noticed the bats hanging from the ceiling and 'about 100 yards into the cave he found the skeleton of a bear.' They also reported finding many beautiful 'water formations'. Some unknown enterprising rancher laid his windmill pipes to Windmill Lake at the bottom. During World War II Dr. Lytle Adams entered the sinkhole by means of a ladder made of several hundred feet of barbed wire with brush rungs, during his bat bomb project. Perhaps the best known descent and exploration

is that of Patrick J. White, Floyd Potter, Eddie Raney and Ralph Velasco in January 1947. On February 3, 1947, Milton J. McColm, Regional Chief of the Lands Division, National Park Service and M. R. Tillotson, Region 3 Director N.P.S., along with Dan McKnight, M.E. Stone, Fred W. Foster and Toby Roe visited the sinkhole. They used a winch truck and platform for the descent. In May 1947 Foster Studios moved their equipment to the site, set up a generator and began shooting a film. They continued into October when they finished a 55 minute, sound, color film entitled "The Devil's Sinkhole". In 1949 and 1950 the sinkhole was commercialized for a short period by Sid Templeton and Alfred Stewart. They installed a small winch powered elevator and charged \$1.00 per person for the ride to the top of the mountain and back. In early 1956 Mr. R. B. Barlow, Executive Director of the Texas State Park Board visited the sinkhole, but due to lack of funds it was not developed into a state park. In January 1956 an aqualung expedition led by Bob Holder explored the lake and found no promising leads. Throughout its long history the sinkhole has had only one fatality, though numerous parties have been trapped in it through lack of proper equipment. Abner Jefferson Totty was killed in the Lake Room when the cable ladder he was on dislodged a boulder which crushed his skull." In addition to these explorations, one which is omitted in Meador's account is to be found in Stovall (1959). He states, "Ira L. Wheat relates that while he and Captain Frank James were hunting the Odel boys, they had occasion to go down into the Devil's Sinkhole and while there, explored it to some extent, finding thousands of pounds of honey hanging from the roofs of the different rooms in the cave. He went on to say that he and Captain James shot from their anchorages over a wagon load of the best honey he had ever tasted." Another historical note from the same book states, "Machinery was installed at the Devil's Sinkhole in 1934 to recover the vast deposits of bat guano known to be in the cave. Dr. Nance and associates of Dallas were in charge of the project." The history of guano mining at the sinkhole has never been compiled but should make an interesting story in itself. In October 1956 a group of cavers from the Corpus Christi Grotto visited the cave. They reported that at that time the sinkhole was "again being mined for guano, the miners using a 150 foot wooden ladder to enter the cave. The ladder was made of 2x4's and secured with a rope to the platform at the edge of the sink. A 'cable car' arrangement was being used to haul sacks of guano from the cave." (Anonymous, 1956h) In recent years a new mining operation at the sinkhole was initiated. An intensive search was made for the "lost" rooms by means of gravity meters and well-drilling, but all to no avail. A large boom was installed, which swung far out over the entrance. This project, however, was soon abandoned and no mining is presently being done at the cave. One other early visit to the cave should be mentioned. This was made by the famous (or infamous) explorer, Frank Nicholson, who visited the cave on Aug. 19, 1934, together with Barton Dismukes, W.B. Singleton, J.L. Price, and Grady Hill. Although most accounts of the sinkhole are fairly accurate his account, as usual, was greatly exaggerated. He claimed a depth of 646' to the underground lake and dimensions of 1500 to 1800 feet in width. The first recorded trip to the cave by organized cavers was early in 1952 when a trip was made by members of the University of Texas Grotto. This group included James McClung, Roy Pietsch, Carroll Slemaker, David Stauffer, John Riggs, Richard Scott, Jack Elbo, Gerald Seligman, Lige Balceszak, Bernard Ward, Bob Hudson, Mill Thomas, George Shelly, Bennie Pearson, Joe McClung, Warren Phillips, Mackie Brown, Gardner Morton, Aurelio Ramirez, Mermann Romeike, Frances Morale, Ann Courter, S. Schindler, and Mr. and Mrs. Tom Dean. Since that time the cave has been visited by

thousands of cavers representing all of the caving groups in the state. In June, 1964, the National Speleological Society Convention was held at New Braunfels and the Sinkhole was included as one of the field trip sites. At that time over 200 people were lowered into the cave.

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Ref: TSS files

DRAGOO CAVE (DRAGOO CAVE)

Edwards County (#35)

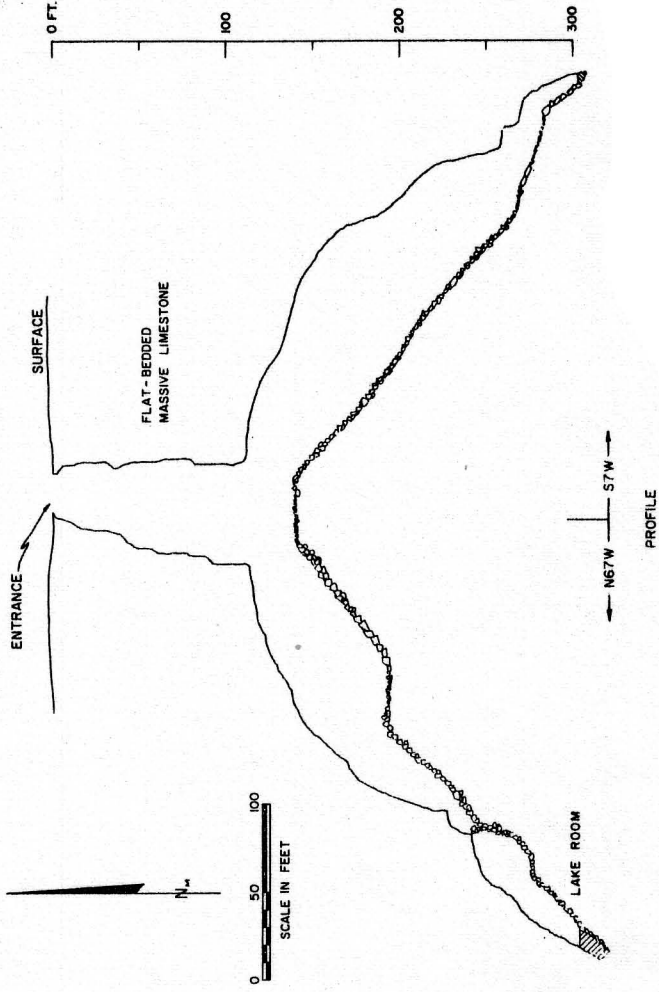
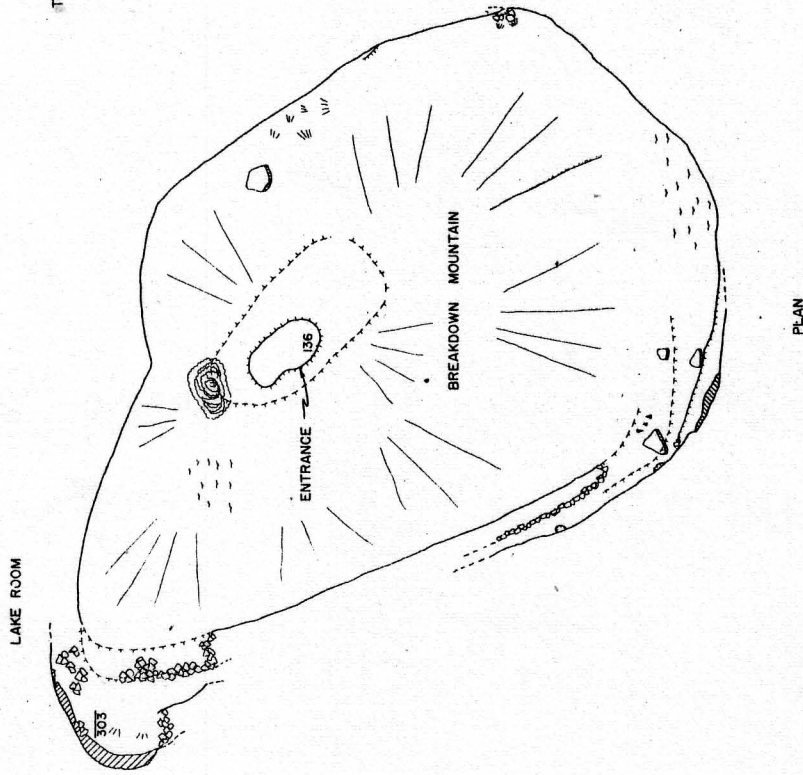
Indian Creek 15' Quadrangle

Owner: John Whitworth

Description: The best available description of Dragoo Cave is that by Cuevas, Guthrie, Hilliard, and Trombley (1959). It is reproduced here without change. "The entrance of Dragoo is a tube leading downward at an angle of about 30°. After a vertical descent of three meters, there is a sudden two-meter dropoff into a small inky room which is usually wet and crawling with crickets. It is one of the most depressing places imaginable. A sliding tumble down the steep, slippery floor leads to the large single column which is the main attraction of the next room, This column is three meters below the floor of the entrance chamber. The floor of the large room to the west is level, but becomes increasingly cluttered with encrusted breakdown as one approaches the fused formations which partition the room. Several paths may be taken from one side of this room to the other. At the extreme left is a white limestone wall about two meters high. By climbing down a pit at the base of the wall, a lower passage to the next room may be found. This route leads to the foot of a large, guano-covered hill which we call 'Slippery Hill.' One way to the top of slippery hill is to step between the pits along the right-hand wall between the wall and the flowstone. It is also possible to squeeze through the formations in two or three places, to emerge at the top of the hill. At the top of 'Slippery Hill' is a fairly level, uncluttered little platform on which stand some beautiful pillars. A small snake was seen coiled in the convolutions of one

DEVIL'S SINKHOLE
EDWARDS COUNTY, TEXAS

BRUNTON & TAPE SURVEY BY
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS GROTTO
1963



PLAN

PROFILE

of these. We were surprised to see the snake so far from the entrance, and speculated that he had entered through a hidden hole to the surface to prey on the crickets which abound there. He appeared to be some variety of garter snake, very clean and shiny, black with orange markings. Behind the hill to the right is a series of pits which were not explored. The pit... is the start of a very tight crawl which is not negotiable now because of stalactites. A hacksaw blade was found in the pit, indicating that someone had attempted to enlarge the crawl. One of the many pits may lead to a new room to the north, but all of those explored pinched off after leading under the breakdown. The entire area on both sides of the flowstone is profusely decorated with a variety of large columns. No two are alike and the exhilarating feeling, well known to cavers, of being surrounded by fantastic unworldly sculpture is at its best here. Directly above the hill is a beautiful circular dome ornamented around the entire circumference by gracefully curling leaves. A descent of six meters down the hill leads to the lower chambers. The first room contains a cluster of pillars which have recently carved and partially broken (between October, 1958 and July, 1959). This room branches to the 'Big Room' and the south passageway which runs under the main ridge of the hill. The south passage averages one or two meters high, making an uncomfortable duck wall possible for most of its length. About a third of the way to the end is a little room which is solidly packed with columns. These emit clear tones when struck gently. A deep trench runs along the left wall. This may be straddled, or it may be entered at one end, after crawling under the overhang, left at the lower end in the next room. A pretty little pool at the extreme right cannot be seen without squeezing through the thick formations. Again, the feeling of being in a fantastic forest pervades the room. Just beyond the formation room, another two-meter descent leads to the 'Balcony Room', so called because there suddenly appears a rather large room with a high ceiling in the front half, and a low, perfectly flat ceiling at the rear like the underside of a balcony. The width of the room is 17 meters, a striking contrast to the low flat ceiling. Remarkable soda straw formations cover the entire underside of the balcony. After ducking under the balcony, the descent to the last room is begun. The last few meters up to the entrance of the final room is a wet crawl. By wiggling through a body-sized hole, the ten-meter diameter pill-shaped end of the cave is reached. The walls of this room are light and dry. This room is an estimated 27 meters below the surface of the hill. Back at the first lower-level room is the entrance to the 'Big Room'. This was not discovered until our second trip in July, 1958, because it is hidden under a ledge which runs along the west wall. There is just room enough to crawl over the wet stubble of stalagmites through a tight opening which gradually funnels into the room. The light walls and reddish dirt floor are in contrast to the preceding rooms which are generally very dark. There was no evidence that anyone had been in this room before us, although a year later, tinfoil and paper were found, and many footprints showed in the soft dirt. The far/western end of the Big Room is a small stoopway. The direction of dirt flow appears to be due west, and it is possible to crawl for some distance before the ceiling finally meets the dirt. Near the south wall of the room are several clear pools. Directly above these is a dome which can be reached by climbing seven or eight meters up a 'spiral stair^{case}' of projections which make three revolutions before the top of the dome is reached. In the opposite wall, across from the staircase, is an S-shaped tube near the roof. This extends upward into a dome for a distance of 24 meters at a fairly steep angle. In this small dome are a number of holes, arranged like portholes. No light was visible through these, but

several swallows entered through these, while one of us was in the dome. An interesting but undecorated part of the cave is the loop of passageways which runs off to the right of the entranceway. This gradually ascends to a trio of domes. The passageway to the right is blocked by a two-meter wall which may be climbed or crawled under through a pit beneath one of the domes. Some black scorpions were seen in this dome in August, 1958. The western dome is the highest of the three." (See map, page 33)

History: The first mention of the cave available is in White (1948), but no description or indication of the extent of the cave is given. The first recorded exploration was made in 1954 by Bart and Bob Crisman of the Abilene Grotto. A trip was made on Feb. 22, 1957, by Harvey Jackson, Bob Money, Jerry Harwood, Paul Hanson, Bob Moore, and Buddy "Hammock" Frank of the Corpus Christi Grotto. About this time it was also visited by Dave Kyser and other members of the University of Texas Grotto, and a frog, Syrhophus sp., was collected. Since that time many trips have been made to the cave by members of most of the organized groups in Texas. A summary of the recorded trips is given here.

October, 1958. Cave mapped by E. Cuevas, J. Guthrie, H. Hilliard, and I. Trombley of Corpus Christi.

October 17, 1959. Cave visited by George Gray, Ray Archibald, John Lanier, and James Estes of the Abilene Grotto.

1960. George Gray, John Lanier, and James Estes lead Hugh Colbert, Abilene scoutmaster, Jim Caldwell, district scout executive, Raymond Fain, Steve Rowe, and Ikey Dillingham and 16 boy scouts through the cave.

January 6, 1962. Cave was visited by George and Jacqui Gray of the Abilene Grotto, Joe and Ann Sanders of Abilene, and Erwin Wesp of the Alamo Grotto.

March 14, 1964. Cave was visited by members of the Abilene Grotto and a group from Dyess AFB in Abilene.

Much confusion has arisen over the correct identification and name of this cave. Several early reports confused it with Hilltop Cave. The first accounts of the cave use the name Dragool Cave. The land-owner, however, after whom the cave is named is Tom Dragoo, so that the correct name for the cave is Dragoo Cave and the "l" simply a misspelling.

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Reprinted in: Speleo Digest 1958, p. 1-298 ff. Pittsburgh Grotto Press.
Ref: TSS files

DUNBAR CAVE

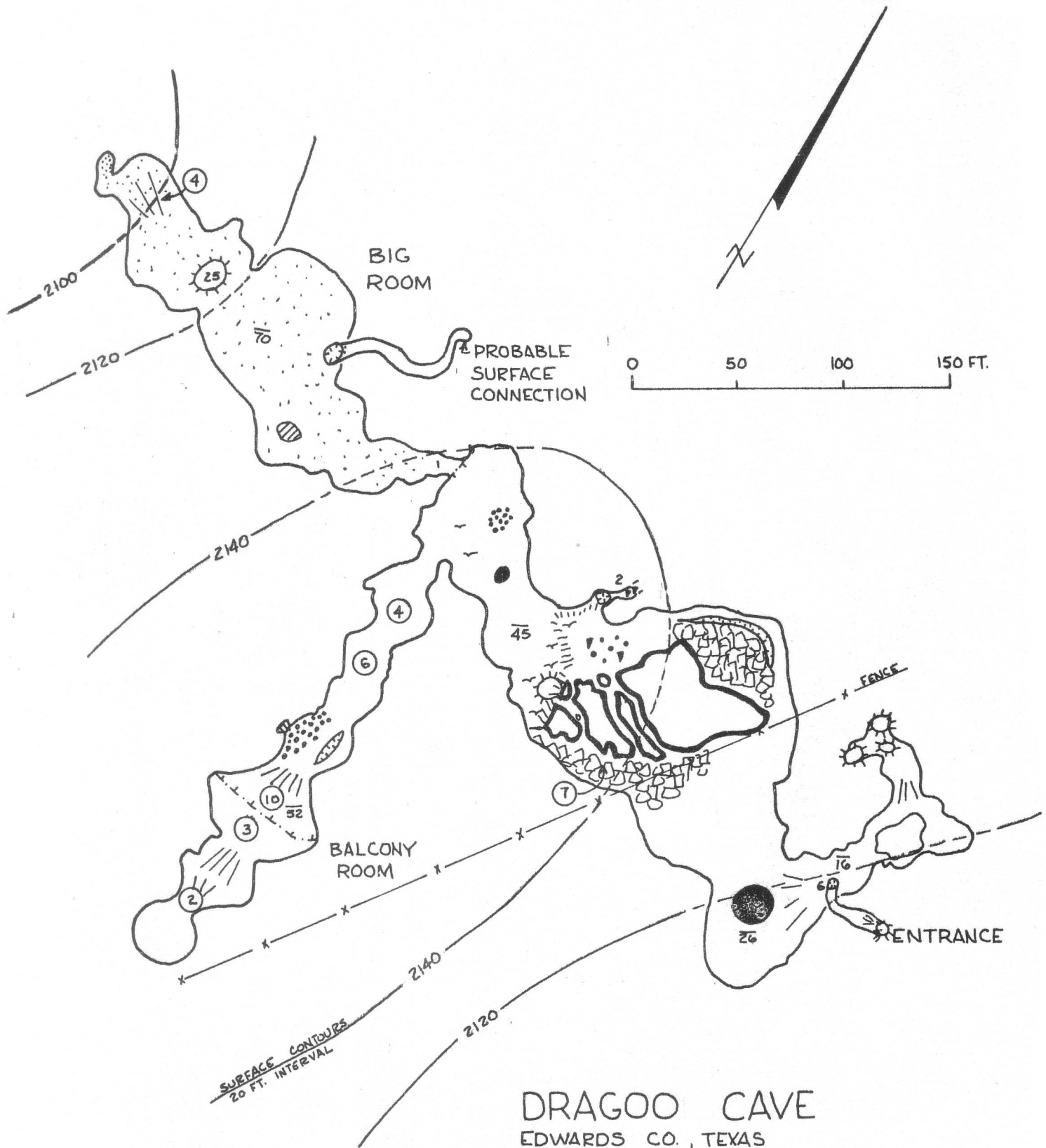
Edwards County (#26)

Carta Valley 15' Quadrangle

Owner: Allen Dunbar

Description: The entrance to Dunbar Cave is an 8' circular hole in the clean limestone surface of a sparsely grown hillside. The 26' drop through a dome in the cave's ceiling requires a cable ladder or rope. The major part of the cave consists of a large solution tunnel most often featuring an elevated platform of slab breakdown and the characteristic pits and crevices found lateral to it. Near the entrance this passage intersects a 175' long, 35' wide side tunnel. This broad area of twilight is occupied by a large colony of Cave Swallows, whose mud nests are densely scattered along walls and irregularities in the 10'-15' high ceiling. Immediately east of the entrance drop one can descend a small breakdown slope and proceed along a dry, silt-floored passage for 275', where it is terminated by an abrupt collapse. It averages 30' x 10' high and is untypically free of breakdown. Continuing WNW from the entrance, the passage is somewhat larger and more irregular and extends 250' before intersecting a room approximately 150' long, 75' wide, and 15' high. A bat colony was observed in the southern and lowest portion of this room, where collapse has not occurred. A passage directed NW of this room, generally 35'-40' wide and 12'-25' high, leads 350' to the Echo Room. Along this route are encountered several large flowstone mounds and stalagmites. The Echo Room is a symmetrical chamber 80' long, 55' wide, 25' high, and with a flat silt and guano floor. Some deteriorated ladders and wooden forms found here and in the incoming passage were apparently left by guano miners. The final room of the cave is the largest, being 180' long, 100' wide, and averaging 15' high. It is connected to the Echo Room by a 10' wide, 30' long stoopway. The floor of the room is quite irregular, with prominent breakdown and several large, active formations. A few small solution passages extend from the room, but all end within 50'. Also, along the southern perimeter are small, lower level rooms and crawls in breakdown which remain unsurveyed and perhaps not thoroughly explored. A bat colony is to be found at the SW end of the room. The total length of the cave is about 1500', while its depth does not exceed 50'. (See map, page 35)

Biology: The best-known aspect of the biology of Dunbar Cave is the ecology of the cave swallow, Petrochelidon fulva pallida. The swallows have been studied in some detail by James K. Baker and Robert K. Selander. When they visited the cave in September, 1956, the population numbered about 400 swallows. Baker has since returned to the cave on several occasions to



DRAGOO CAVE
 EDWARDS CO., TEXAS
 MAPPED BY F. CUEVAS, J. GUTHRIE,
 H. HILLIARD & I. TROMBLEY, 10-58

study the habits of this bird. Besides the swallow the only other vertebrates recorded from the cave are bats, Myotis velifer, and frogs, Syrrophus sp. The swallows inhabit the large entrance chamber, while the bats occupy more remote sections of the cave. Although a few cliff swallows, Petrochelidon pyrrhonota, have been observed in flight with the cave swallow above the cave entrance, none have been observed in the cave. A small collection of beetles, Rhadine howdeni (Barr and Lawrence), was made by James K. Baker on one of his trips to the cave. A spider, Cicurina sp., has also been previously collected in the cave. A collection of invertebrates was made on Aug. 30, 1964, by David McKenzie and Terry Raines. This material includes an unidentified gordion worm, unidentified pseudoscorpions, spiders (blind Cicurina sp., Cicurina varians, Ariadna bicolor, and Achaeearanea porteri), blind phalangids representing a new species of Hoplobunus, epigeal isopods, roaches (Arenivaga tonkawa), cave crickets (Ceuthophilus secretus), ants (Pogonomyrmex barbatus), carabid beetles (Rhadine howdeni and Selenophorus sp.), dermestid beetles (Dermestes caninus), unidentified beetles of the family Histeridae, languriid beetles (Languria laeta), staphylinid beetles (Belonuchus sp., nr noquinus), and tenebrionid beetles (Eleodes hisp labris and Embaphion muricatum subsp.)

History: It is not known exactly when the cave was first explored, but it is reported that explorers in the 1930's found a large lower level to the cave, through which a windmill pipe passed. This report has not been verified and such a level may not exist. The cave has been mined for guano at some time many years ago, but no dates of this operation or operations are known. The first recorded exploration of the cave was made in July, 1955, by Bill Helmer and other members of the University of Texas Grotto. A trip was made in December, 1955, by Bill Helmer, Don Goodson, Bob Jones, and Bill Hettler, with the cave being mapped. In March, 1956, the cave was visited by David Hannah, Fred Berner, Glen Harper, and Dave Kysler. A trip was made in December, 1956, by members of the University of Texas Grotto. James K. Baker visited the cave in September, 1956, and has since made several trips to the cave to study the swallows. The cave was visited on Sept. 1, 1962, by George Gray, Ed deBary, and Bryant Lilly of the Abilene Grotto. Many trips by other groups have been made to the cave, but dates and personnel have not been recorded. It was re-mapped in greater detail on Aug. 30, 1964, by David McKenzie and Terry Raines.

- Bibliography:** Anonymous. 1955. Future cave trips. *Texas Caver*. November, 1955. p. 1.
- Anonymous. 1956. Dunbar Cave. *Ibid*, 1(2):5. Reprinted in: *Speleo Digest* 1956, 1-60, 61. Pittsburgh Grotto Press, 1957.
- Anonymous. 1956a. Report on the Coahuilan Cliff Swallow. *Texas Caver*, 1(9):3-4. Reprinted as "Swallows that nest in Texas caves" in: *NSS News*, 15(1):6-7.
- Anonymous. 1956b. "Several field trips have been..." *Texas Caver*, 1(3):2.
- Anonymous. 1956c. UTSS holds annual club trip. *Ibid*, 1(11):5.
- Anonymous. 1957. Notes, news and letters. *NSS News*, 15(1):2-3.
- Anonymous. 1962. News: Abilene. *Texas Caver*, 7(8):105.
- Anonymous. 1965. News: University of Texas, N.S.S. *Ibid*, 10(3):60.
- Baker, J.K. 1962. Associations of cave swallows with cliff and barn swallows. *Condor*, 64(4):326.
- Estes, J.H. 1961. Noteworthy caverns of Texas. *Texas Almanac* 1961-1962, p. 63.
- Helmer, W.J. 1956. Cover. *NSS News*, 14(11):105-106.

- Helmer, W.J. 1956a. Dunbar, a cave with possibilities. NSS News, 14(11): 111.
- Kunath, C. 1965. Ye olde history. Privately printed. 60 pp.
- Reddell, J. 1961. Texas Speleological Survey. Texas Caver, 6(4):53-54.
- Reddell, J.R., ed. 1964. A guide to the caves of Texas, p. 52. R. & R. Reproduction Co., Abilene, Texas.
- Reddell, J.R. 1965. A checklist of the cave fauna of Texas. I. The Invertebrata (exclusive of Insecta). Texas Journal of Science, 17(2): 143-187.
- Reddell, J.R. 1966. A checklist of the cave fauna of Texas. II. Insecta. Texas Journal of Science. (In press)
- Selander, R.K., and J.K. Baker. 1957. The cave swallow in Texas. Condor, 59(6):345-363.
- Widener, D.L., ed. n.d. Edwards Co. Texas Cave Survey, 1(4):28-29. Reprinted in: Speleo Digest 1958, pp. 1-299, 300. Pittsburgh Grotto Press, 1959.

Ref: TSS files

ED MAYFIELD RANCH CAVE NO. 1

Edwards County (#13)

Rocksprings 30' Quadrangle

Owner: Ed Mayfield

Description: The cave consists of a 15' deep sink dropping into a 30' x 15' in diameter room. The total depth of the cave is 20'-30'. It was explored on March 31, 1956, by Quincy Berlin and others. Equipment is needed for the entrance.

Bibliography: Widener, D.L., ed. n.d. Edwards Co. Texas Cave Survey, 1(4): 32.

Ref: TSS files

ED MAYFIELD RANCH CAVE NO. 2

Edwards County (#14)

Rocksprings 30' Quadrangle

Owner: Ed Mayfield

Description: The cave is about 20' deep and consists of one room 80' x 40' and 6'-10' high. Two sinks lead to lower crawlways. Bats have inhabited the cave which contains much breakdown and no formations. Fauna observed included harvestmen. It was explored by Quincy Berlin and a group from Dallas.

Bibliography: Widener, D.L., ed. n.d. Edwards Co. Texas Cave Survey, 1(4):32.

Ref: TSS files

ED MAYFIELD RANCH CAVE NO. 3

Edwards County (#15)

Rocksprings 30' Quadrangle

Owner: Ed Mayfield

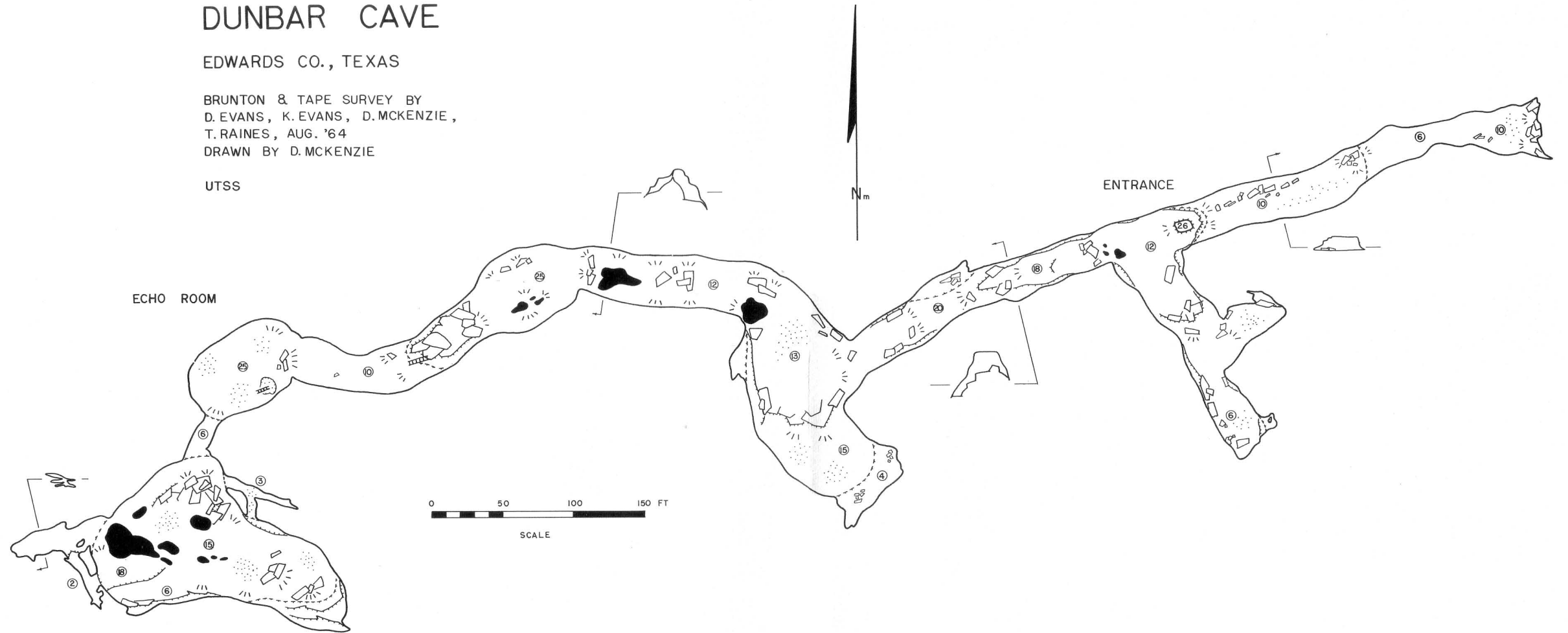
Description: The cave consists of a single chamber 75' in diameter. There are only a few discolored formations, with some guano in the room. One

DUNBAR CAVE

EDWARDS CO., TEXAS

BRUNTON & TAPE SURVEY BY
D. EVANS, K. EVANS, D. MCKENZIE,
T. RAINES, AUG. '64
DRAWN BY D. MCKENZIE

UTSS



very tight squeezeway leads out of the room. The entrance is made by a 20' drop, 2' in diameter, and requiring equipment. The total depth is 30'-40'. It was explored on March 31, 1965, by Bob and Bart Crisman.

Bibliography: Widener, D.L., ed. n.d. Edwards Co. Texas Cave Survey, 1(4):32.

Ref: TSS files

FALLEN STALAGMITE CAVE (BIG TOOTH CAVE)

Edwards County (#21)

Carta Valley 15' Quadrangle

Owner: York Newman

Description: A crevice entrance in the bottom of a small sink drops 32' to a breakdown-floored room 120' long and with an average ceiling height of 20'; near the west side of the room is a 4' stalagmite with a flat top and a 10' flowstone base. Three stalagmites are found in the north end, one of which has fallen over. Along the southeast wall is a long slip area of limestone, where it has fallen from the wall but remains upright. A crawl, west of the entrance, was left unchecked because of snakes. The cave was first reported by Preston McMichael of Houston. A brunton and tape survey was made by Tom Meador and Jon Vinson on Oct. 17, 1964. (See map, page 37)

Biology: Many small white frogs were found in the room; a 4½' long non-poisonous snake was observed near the entrance and one rattlesnake was killed. The floor near the entrance is covered with goat bones; rotten wood near the entrance has mushrooms growing on it.

Ref: C. Kunath,
T. Meador

FIELDS SHELTER

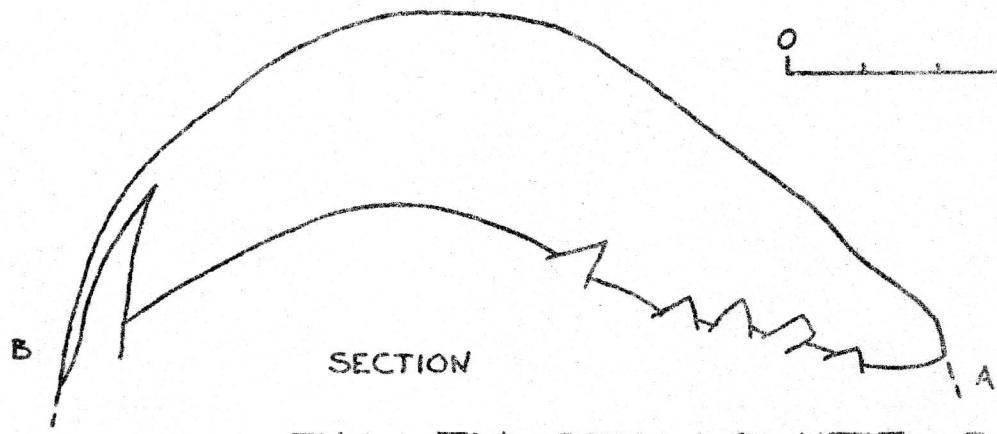
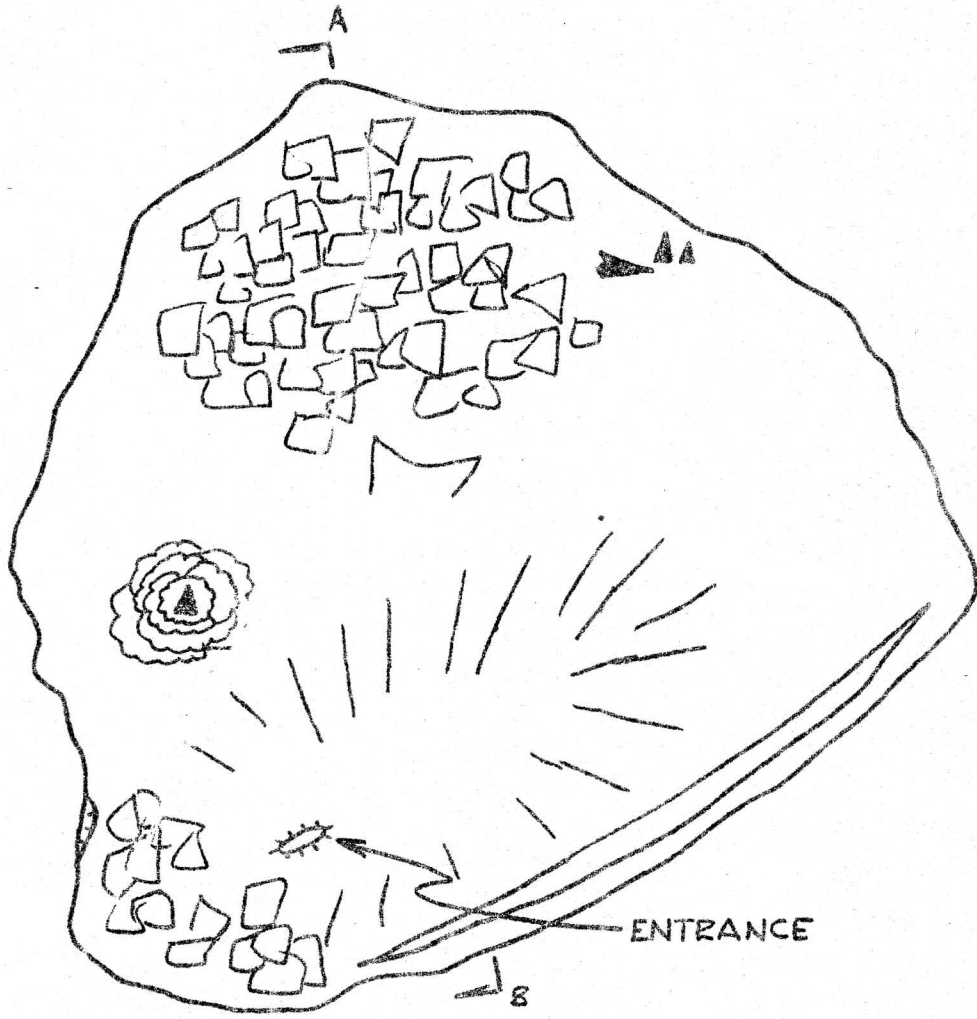
Edwards County (#41)

Hackberry 15' Quadrangle

Owner: L.M. Fields

Description: All of the information available on this cave is from T.N. Campbell's report on the cave. "The shelter opening is 25 feet wide and about 16 feet high. Opposite the opening the shelter extends backward into the limestone bluff about 20 feet, but to the left (northwest) there is an extension which makes the shelter much wider than its opening. The maximum width is approximately 50 feet. The ceiling inside the shelter varies in height. At the southeastern end it is 14 feet high; at the northwestern end, 9 feet; but it rises to a height of about 20 feet at a point some 15 feet from the northwestern end. At the entrance of the shelter is a large limestone boulder that is deeply scored, apparently from use for abrading purposes (as sharpening pointed bone implements). The scourings show no particular pattern." (Campbell, 1957) (See map, page 40)

Archaeology: "The floor deposit in the shelter was thin, varying from 10 cm. near the wall at the southeastern end to approximately 50 cm. in the central part of the northwestern half. Four layers could be distinguished. Stratum 1, which rested on bedrock, consisted of fine dust and ash without any fibrous material; it appears not to have been present over the entire floor area, but in at least one place it had a thickness of 12.5 cm. Above this



FALLEN STALAGMITE CAVE

EDWARDS CO., TEXAS
 BRUNTON & TAPE SURVEY BY
 T. MEADOR & J. VINSON, 10-17-64

lay Stratum 2, a tangled mass of fibrous material intermixed with ash and dust. Stratum 2 ranged from 10 to 20 cm. in thickness and contained grass stems, sotol, lechuguilla, and beargrass leaves, prickly pear internodes, and apparently most of the artifacts from the site, particularly those made of organic materials. Stratum 3 was a thin layer of fine dust and ash which averaged 7.5 cm. in thickness and contained a small amount of fibrous material similar to that in Stratum 2 immediately below. Capping the deposit was Stratum 4, a hard-packed layer of sheep and goat dung which ranged from 5 to 12.5 cm. in thickness. Stratum 4 is obviously of very recent origin. The shelter deposit was not disturbed by human burials at any time. Two human molar teeth, however were encountered in Stratum 1... Rabbit, squirrel and other rodent bones were fairly common, but turkey and other big bones were not strongly represented. Bones of larger animals, such as bison and deer, were present in small quantities. A few snail shells were noted, but no mussel shells... Plant remains were very common. Internodes of prickly pear were especially numerous in Stratum 2 and appear to have been used as food... The dart point types include: Abasolo, 3; Ensor, 3; Kinney, 1; Martindale, 1; Pandale, 1; Refugio, 2; and Tortugas, 2... Five of the 11 arrowpoints show considerable variation in outline, but they appear to be Young points... Three crudely made and heavily barbed arrowpoints, all with damaged stems, appear to be fragmentary Perdiz points... The remaining three arrowpoints cannot be identified as to type..." (Campbell 1957) In addition to these artifacts there were also found: knives, end-scrapers, miscellaneous flint artifacts, hand stone (mano), a milling slab, bone awls, bone beads, an antler flaking tool, fire-making equipment, a wooden awl, a rhythm stick, sticks wrapped with fiber, miscellaneous sticks showing evidence of use or preparation for use, a flageolet, four reed fragments, fragments of basketry and matting, cordage and netting and artifacts made from yucca leaves (including sandals, a small hoop, yucca leaves bearing knots, twisted yucca leaves, and a folded and wrapped yucca leaf). "In summary, it may be said that the Fields site, a small rock shelter in the western part of the Edwards Plateau of Texas, has yielded evidence of two prehistoric occupations. The first (and earlier) is assignable to the Archaic Stage of Texas and shows a blend of traits commonly found in sites of the Pecos River Focus and the Edwards Plateau Aspect. The second (and later), which is very lightly represented and not supported by direct stratigraphic evidence, is believed to be referable to some as yet undefined focus of the Central Texas Aspect (Neo-American Stage). The Fields site is significant because it is the easternmost dry shelter thus far reported in southwestern Texas, and the preservation of Archaic artifacts of wood and fiber provides data that are useful in evaluating the relationships between the Pecos River Focus and the Edwards Plateau Aspect. It also shows how the factor of preservation introduces difficulties in cultural identification and in the comparison of cultures from areas with different climates." (Campbell, 1957)

History: "The Fields Shelter was excavated by a small field crew from the University of Texas during the two-day period of April 4-5, 1934. This excavation was directed by J.E. Pearce, then Chairman of the Department of Anthropology, but the actual field work was supervised by A.T. Jackson, who also prepared the field report. The crew began digging at the southeastern end of the shelter and worked toward the opposite end, removing all of the floor deposit down to bed rock. There seems to have been no excavation in the midden on the talus slope below the shelter." (Campbell, 1957)

- Bibliography: Campbell, T.N. 1957. The Fields Shelter: An archeological site in Edwards County, Texas. Texas Journal of Science, 9(1):7-25.
 Gray, W.R. 1942. Archaeology of the Craig Rock Shelters, Upper Nueces Valley, Edwards County, Texas, p. 5. Unpublished M.A. Thesis. University of Texas.
 Suhm, D.A. 1958. A review of Central Texas archeology. Bull. Texas Archeological Society, 29:94.

Ref: TSS files

FOUNTAIN CAVE

Edwards County (#44)

Hackberry 15' Quadrangle

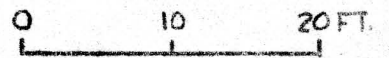
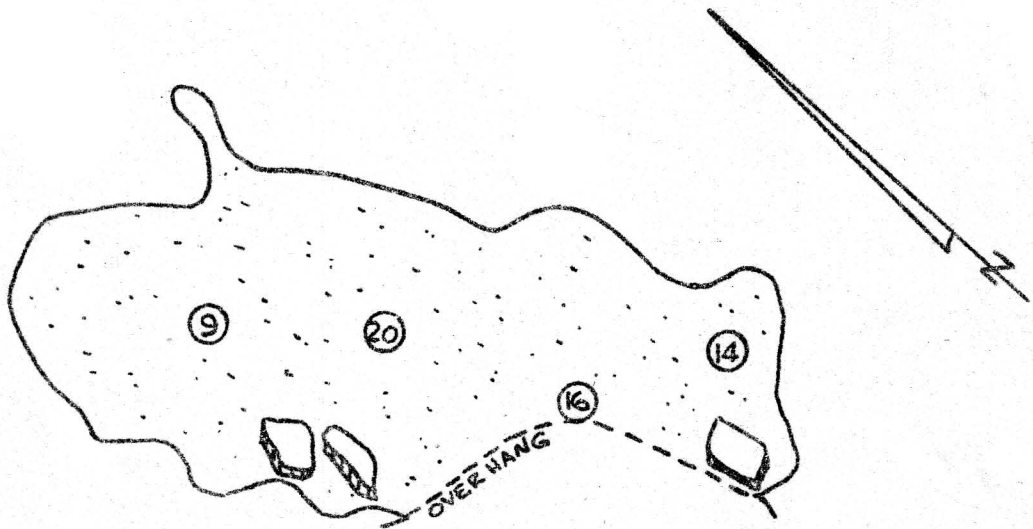
Owner: Jessy Lockhart

Description: Fountain Cave is located on the side of a steep hill on the west side of the Nueces River. The mouth of the cave faces east and overlooks the beautiful Nueces River canyon. The main entrance measures 3' in diameter; there is another entrance, a small hole, about 10' to the north. The entrance is 30' long and 25' wide with an average ceiling height of 5'. There are four passages leading from this room, but only two extend to the main part of the cave. The passage to the right is low-ceilinged and ends, after 250', in very low rooms, some of which are quite wide and contain dry clay on the floor. There is a passage on a somewhat higher level just inside the first passage. There are a few formations and the ceiling remains fairly constant at 4½'. After about 100', the floor drops into a lower passage and both passages soon become one and extend to a room containing one large stalagmite about 15' high. Resembling a large fountain, although it is inactive, it is assumed that this formation gave the cave its name. This passage continues for about 100' before ending. From the Fountain and coming back beneath the upper level, there is a small maze of low passages on one level. After 75' this passage makes a short jog, and shortly becomes low again. After a few more feet of small passage it emerges into the entrance room of the cave. A short parallel passage also leads from the entrance room to the latter passage. The remaining lead in the entrance room is a very short dead-end passage. The cave was explored and mapped by members of the Abilene Grotto and the San Angelo College Speleological Society in 1964. A well-known cave locally, it was first visited by Bob and Bart Crisman in December, 1954. It has since been visited a few times by members of the Abilene and University of Texas Grottos. (See map, page 41)

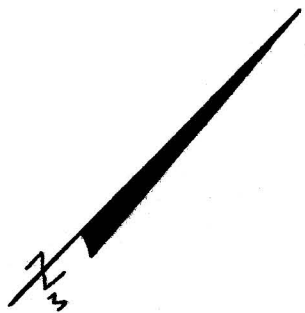
Geology: Fountain Cave is formed in the lowest part of the lower unnamed formation. Locally, this basal unit is probably limier and a better cave-former. The cave may represent phreatic passages below the formerly higher bed of the Nueces River, or may be one of the former spring flow outlets for water movement on top of the less permeable Glen Rose Limestone below.

- Bibliography: Anonymous. 1964. News: Abilene, N.S.S. Texas Caver, 9(4):59.
 Crisman, B., and B. Crisman. 1956. Letters to the editor. Ibid, 1(2):5.
 Estes, J.H. 1961. Noteworthy caverns of Texas. Texas Almanac 1961-1962, p. 63.
 Widener, D.L., ed. n.d. Edwards Co. Texas Cave Survey, 1(4):30.
 Reprinted in: Speleo Digest 1958, p. 1-300. Pittsburgh Grotto Press, 1959.

Ref: Jim Estes

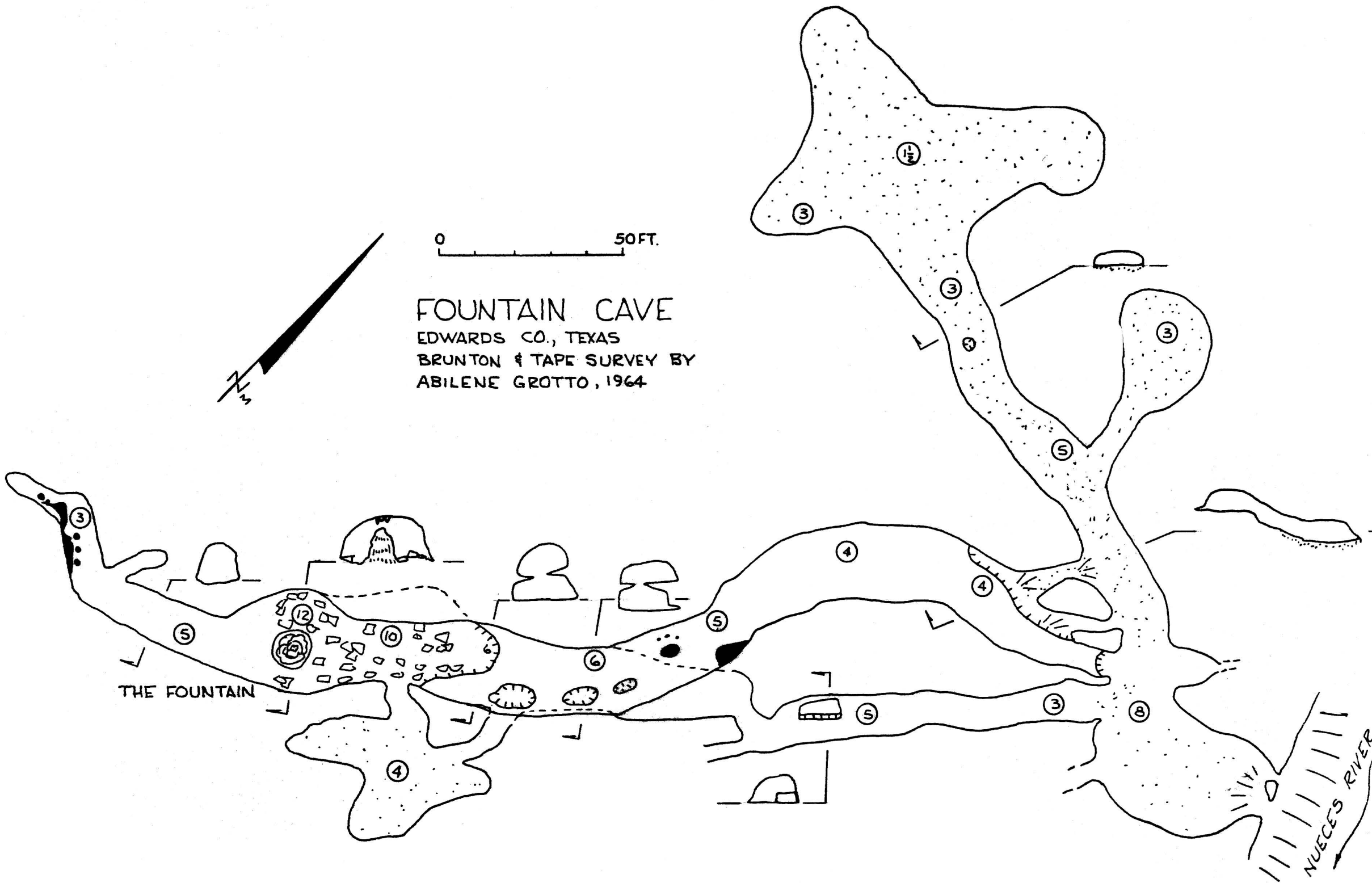


FIELDS' SHELTER
EDWARDS CO., TEXAS
AFTER A.T. JACKSON, ET AL., 1934



0 50 FT.

FOUNTAIN CAVE
EDWARDS CO., TEXAS
BRUNTON & TAPE SURVEY BY
ABILENE GROTTTO, 1964



GOAT SKULL CAVE

Edwards County (#39)

Indian Mountain 15' Quadrangle

Owner: Tommy Seargeant

Description: Upon dropping about 10' to a heap of rubble, one finds that most of the rubble is made up of goat skeletons, with about 75' skulls within a 6' radius. This was due to the government-promoted goat slaughtering during the depression when the cave was used in lieu of burning the slaughtered goats. The cave is a small solution cave in a swiss-cheese type of rock. Nowhere in its 75' length is it possible to stand up. It was reported by Carl Clayton on Nov. 30, 1949. This cave lies very near to the Kinney County line. Since there is no exact location available, it is possible that it is not in Edwards County but in Kinney County.

Bibliography: Widener, D.L., ed. n.d. Edwards Co. Texas Cave Survey, 1(4):30. Reprinted in: Speleo Digest 1958, p. 1-301. Pittsburgh Grotto Press, 1959.

Ref: TSS files

GRANDMA'S RAIN DRAIN (RAIN DRAIN CAVE)

Edwards County (#29)

Carta Valley 15' Quadrangle

Owner: Mrs. Davis (Merlin Davis' mother)

Description: The cave is little more than a water course entering through a very small sink which was widened in order to enter the cave. It fills with silt about 150' beyond the entrance. The cave was explored on the weekend of Feb. 22, 1957, by Harvey Jackson, Bob Money, Jerry Harwood, Paul Hanson, Bob Moore, and Buddy "Hammock" Frank of the Corpus Christi Grotto.

Bibliography: Anonymous. 1960. Unusual Texas cave names. Texas Caver, 5(2):9.
Money, R. 1957. Davis Ranch and Dragool Cave field trip. Ibid, 2(2):6.
Widener, D.L., ed. n.d. Edwards Co. Texas Cave Survey, 1(4):30.

Ref: TSS files

GRAVEYARD CAVE

Edwards County (#32)

Carta Valley 15' Quadrangle

Owner: E.T. Rucker

Description: The entrance is a 31" x 15" opening dropping vertically for 45' into a room containing white clay. No passages extend from this room. The cave is named from the fact that 700-800 goats were killed and dumped into the cave during Franklin Roosevelt's livestock killing program.

Bibliography: Crisman, B., and B. Crisman. 1956. Letters to the editor. Texas Caver, 1(2):5.
Widener, D.L., ed. n.d. Edwards Co. Texas Cave Survey, 1(4):31. Reprinted in: Speleo Digest 1958, p. 1-301. Pittsburgh Grotto Press, 1959.

Ref: TSS files

GUTHRIE'S CAVE

Edwards County (#16)

Rocksprings 30' Quadrangle

Owner: Perry Guthrie

Description: The entrance is a 6' x 8' opening that drops 8' and is climbable. The cave opens on the southwest side of the sink and leads to a low room about 30' in diameter and 3' high. To the right is a hole 2' in diameter dropping about 20' to a small room in breakdown; this drop is also climbable. Through the breakdown the cave continues to a small landing with three ways to go. To the right, back in under a shelf, the cave goes to a wide flat room about 40' in diameter and 3' in height. A crawlway leads from this room back to the southwest but is soon clogged with small debris. From the landing another lead goes a short distance and seems to parallel the afore-mentioned crawlway. The third lead is a short one that continues beneath the breakdown and gradually goes upward, possibly making small connections with the first room. The total length of the cave is about 150' and the total depth is 35'-40'. It was visited by James Estes, Bryant Lilly, Sam Corning, and Perry Guthrie, Jr., on June 29, 1963, at which time it was mapped. (See map, page 44)

Biology: Cave crickets, harvestmen, and surface-type beetles were noted. There was no guano present, but the droppings of raccoons or other small animals were seen. A grey mold was noted in spots in the entrance room.

Bibliography: Anonymous. 1963. News: Abilene, N.S.S. Texas Caver, 8(7):74.
Estes, J. 1963. Abilene Grotto visits Guthrie Cave. Ibid, 8(7):73.
Ref: Jim Estes

HILLTOP CAVE (TOP-OF-THE-HILL CAVE)

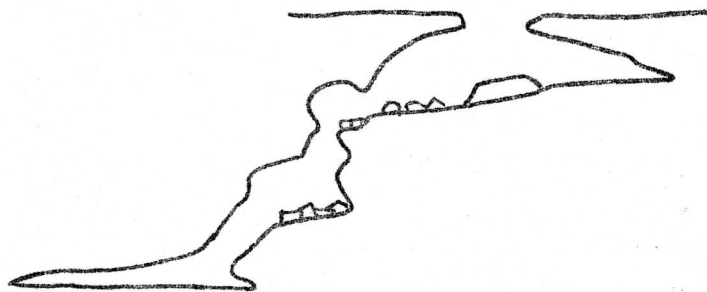
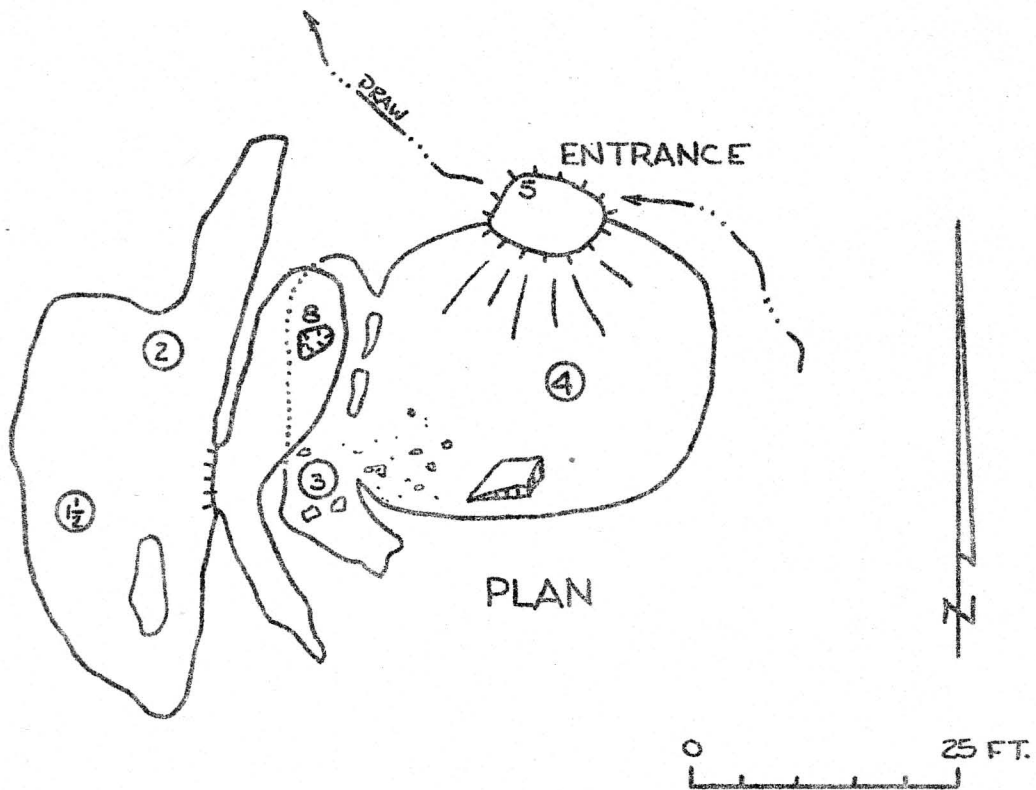
Edwards County (#36)

Indian Creek 15' Quadrangle

Owner: John Whitworth

Description: "Hilltop cave is a single room 50 meters long under the northern knob of the hill. A large, double-peaked pile of breakdown nearly covers the floor. Many sheep and goat bones have washed down to the small stream which circumscribes the room. Although it is possible to crawl under ledges along the western wall, there do not seem to be any real leads. One small chimney at the north end leads upward to a dead end. At the north-western corner there is a huge rock capping the breakdown. Just below this a pit at the bottom of which is a passageway which turns upward into a short chimney after a few feet. At the top of the chimney is a chain of very small rooms. At the southwestern corner of the main room are some very complex, delicate stalactites which were different from any we had ever seen before." (Cuevas, Guthrie, Hilliard, and Trombley, 1959)

History: The first recorded trip to Hilltop Cave was made on the weekend of Feb. 22, 1957, by Harvey Jackson, Bob Money, Jerry Harwood, Paul Hanson, Bob Moore, and Buddy "Hammock" Frank of the Corpus Christi Grotto. Another trip was made in 1960 by George Gray, John Lanier, James Estes, Jim Caldwell, Hugh Colbert, Raymond Fain, Steve Rowe, Ikey Dillingham, and 16 boy scouts. On March 14, 1964, members of the Abilene Grotto and explorers from Dyess



PROFILE

GUTHRIE'S CAVE
 EDWARDS CO., TEXAS
 SURVEYED BY ABILENE GROTTO

AFB visited the cave. It was explored and mapped in October, 1958, by E. Cuevas, J. Guthrie, H. Hilliard, and I. Trombley of Corpus Christi. This map, however, is too small scale and too lacking in detail to warrant its inclusion. The cave has frequently been confused with Dragoo Cave and has probably been visited on most of the trips to Dragoo Cave.

- Bibliography:** Anonymous. 1960. Abilene group tours Dragool-Hilltop with scouts. *Texas Caver*, 5(2):10.
- Anonymous. 1960a. Texas caves: 1959. *Ibid*, 5(1):14.
- Anonymous. 1961. Caver of the Month: Irene Estes. *Ibid*, 6(3):30.
- Anonymous. 1964. News: Abilene, N.S.S. *Ibid*, 9(3):47.
- Cuevas, E., J. Guthrie, H. Hilliard, and I. Trombley. 1959. John Whitworth's caves, Texas. *NSS News*, 17(11):160-163.
- Estes, J. 1959. The cave of the white waterfall. *Texas Caver*, 4(6):10.
Reprinted in: *NSS News*, 18(1):4-5.
- Estes, J.H. 1961. Noteworthy caverns of Texas. *Texas Almanac 1961-1962*, p. 63.
- Kunath, C. 1965. Ye olde history. Privately printed. 60 pp.
- Money, R. 1957. Davis Ranch and Dragool Cave field trip. *Texas Caver*, 2(2):6.
- Reddell, J. 1961. Texas Speleological Survey. *Ibid*, 6(4):53-54.
- Widener, D.L., ed. n.d. Edwards Co. Texas Cave Survey, 1(4):31.
- Ref: TSS files

HUGHES CAVE

Edwards County (#45)

Barksdale 15' Quadrangle

Owner: Glen Hughes

Description: The entrance to the cave is a 30' wide, 5' high slit at the end of a long collapse sink into which much water drains. A talus slope leads down about 10' into a smooth dirt- and rock-floored room about 40' wide and 40' long. At the back of this room, which is about 12' high, numerous formations split the room into several interconnecting passages. A sloping passage along the right wall leads to a 5' drop into a lower room about 30' long, 15' wide, 10' high, and silt-floored. Along the sides of this room the ceiling lowers to less than 3'. What might have been crawls appear to extend from the back of the room but are almost complete filled with the washed-in silt. The total length of the cave is about 150'. It was explored on Aug. 14, 1965, by John Fish and James Reddell.

Biology: A small biological collection was made on Aug. 14, 1965. The fauna collected included: staphylinid beetles, carabid beetles (*Rhadine howdeni*), tenebrionid beetles, mites, harvestmen, spiders, camel crickets, collembola, sow bugs, psocids, centipedes, an immature epigeal millipede of the family Paraiulidae, and a Texas Barking Frog (*Eleutherodactylus latrans*).

- Bibliography:** Anonymous. 1965. News: University of Texas Grotto-N.S.S. *Texas Caver*, 10(9):184-185.

Ref: TSS files

JACOBY CAVE

Edwards County (#19)

Junction 15' Quadrangle

Owner: Ray Jacoby

Description: The cave is entered through two small holes in solid limestone. One of these is about 3' and the other about 1.5' in diameter. These drop about 4' to a talus slope leading down into a room about 35' long, 25' wide, and 10' high. Several formations are found along the left wall and numerous soda straws on the ceiling of the right wall. A slope and climb up and then down at the back of this room leads into a 25' long, 10' wide, 8' high room. A slope up at the back of this second room leads to a 10' drop down into a room about 15' wide, 35' long, and 15' high. A ledge circles the room along the left side. A passage among formations at the back of the room soon becomes too small. A passage near the ceiling at the back of the room on the right side leads into a low room about 20' long and 10' wide. Although there has been much vandalism in the cave, it still remains attractive. The cave was visited on Sept. 21, 1963, by James Reddell and David McKenzie. At that time a collection of fauna was made. The cave was also visited in the fall of 1965 by Orion Knox, Jr.

Biology: The fauna collected includes: epigeal isopods (Porcellio scaber), millipeds (Speodesmus echinurus and Cambala speobia), a scorpion (Vejovis sp.), spiders (Cicurina sp., Cicurina varians, and Achaearanea porteri), carabid beetles (Rhadine sp.), staphylinid beetles (Belonuchus sp., nr noquinus), collembola (Pseudosinella petterseni), a reduviid bug (Triatoma gerstaeckeri), and an immature troglotic phalangid.

Geology: Jacoby Cave is in the uppermost part of the upper unnamed formation just below the Del Rio Clay.

Bibliography: Reddell, J.R. 1965. A checklist of the cave fauna of Texas. I. The Invertebrata (exclusive of Insecta). Texas Journal of Science, 17(2):143-187.

Reddell, J.R. 1966. A checklist of the cave fauna of Texas. II. Insecta. Texas Journal of Science. (In press)

Ref: TSS files

JYM'S CAVE (JAMES CAVE) (ADAMSON CAVE)

Edwards County (#7)

No quadrangle

Owner: Jym Adamson

Description: "The entrance is situated on a slight incline and is in the shape of a half-moon, approximately 5 feet long and 3 feet wide. Entrance was made by means of a thirty foot cable ladder and safety line. The ladder touching bottom, with three or four feet to spare, on a 'platform' about eight by ten feet. It was found that the entrance was situated in the center of the cave and the cave itself was almost in a perfect circle. On one side the floor reached almost to the ceiling and on the opposite side it sloped downward abruptly. There was a ledge across another side made of loose dirt and rocks. Most of the floor was covered with break-down. At one location in the cave there was an undercut where bat guano and a little

dampness were found. The cave had several crawlways and passageways which led off in different directions; but all came to an end after about thirty feet. Upon first entering the cave several 'Texas Barking Frogs' were seen and one was caught for a specimen. The rest disappeared almost as soon as the spelunkers had entered. There were a few of what appeared to be Mexican Free-tail bats but they too soon disappeared. There was little evidence of their inhabiting the main room except for the guano found at the undercut. However, some were seen to come out of a small hole leading down from the ledge, leading the spelunkers to believe there was a larger room below. An entrance large enough could not be found, however, which would allow one to enter the lower level. But after several feet it pinches out to such a small diameter that it is impossible to go any further. Most of the walls were vertical except where the floor came to within a few feet of the ceiling and at these locations the walls were more of a sloping nature. There was very little moisture in the cave, except at the undercut and at one formation which was active. The air in the cave was good in all areas." (Owens, 1957) The only rare thing noted was the green coloration found on cave rock in the twilight zone, apparently a result of a small flow of water. The room is 38' x 38' wide and has one 28' long passage leading off. It was explored in the fall of 1957 by Harvey Jackson, Darlis Jackson, and other members of the Corpus Christi Grotto. Although one location places this cave in Sutton County another clearly indicates that it is farther south, presumably on the same ranch of Jym Adamson as is Wheat Cave.

Bibliography: Owen, R.W. 1957. Jym's Cave. Texas Caver, 3(1):15, 19. Reprinted in: Speleo Digest 1958, p. 1-312. Pittsburgh Grotto Press, 1959.
Ref: TSS files

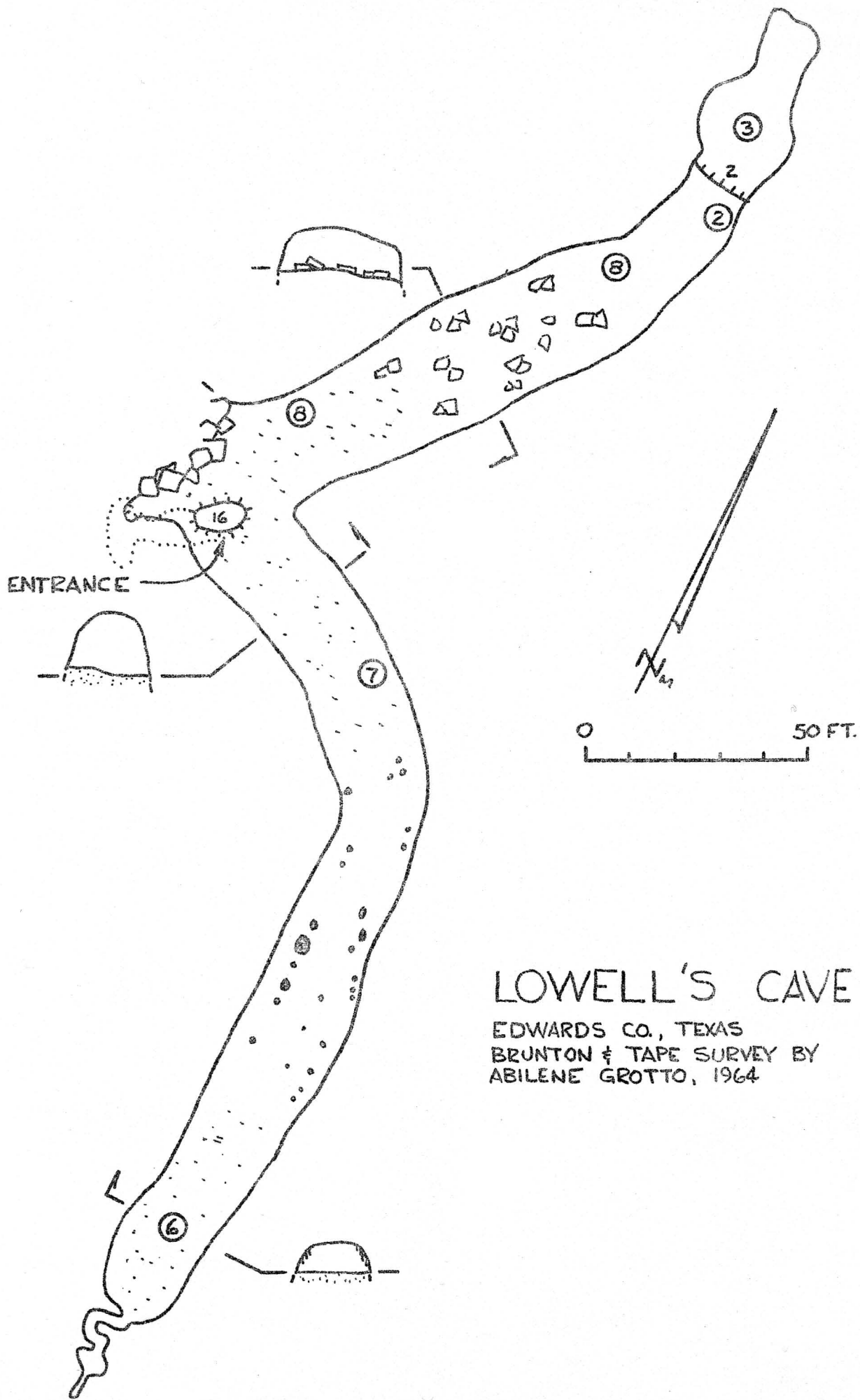
LOWELL'S CAVE (JESSUP CAVE) (LOWELL JESSUP'S CAVE) Edwards County (#42)

Hackberry 15' Quadrangle

Owner: Lowell Jessup

Description: Lowell's Cave is located just beneath the crown of a steep hill. The entrance drops about 30' to a sloping talus floor where it seems a former passage is plugged. The decorated passage goes to the right for about 200', ending in a tight S-shaped crawlway. The passage to the left goes about 150' and ends in a low room. It is a rather pretty cave, though dry, containing one short passage almost filled with coralloid stalactites and stalagmites and another short passage devoid of formations. The cave was visited in the summer of 1964 by members of the Abilene Grotto and the San Angelo College Speleological Society. It was mapped at that time. (See map, page 48)

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Ref: Jim Estes



LOWELL'S CAVE

EDWARDS CO., TEXAS
 BRUNTON & TAPE SURVEY BY
 ABILENE GROTTO, 1964

PAINTED CAVE (THURMAN RANCH CAVE)

Edwards County

? Quadrangle

Owner: Buddy Thurman

Description: Three sinkholes measuring from 4 to 12 feet in diameter and penetrating 6 feet of limestone drop into a room 10' high, 15' wide, and 50' long. It is not known if passages extend from this room. The cave is formed on one level, is dry, and silted. It is reported to have Indian paintings and artifacts. The cave was visited on Nov. 24, 1956, by Dave Kyser of the University of Texas Grotto. He found about 50 nests of the cave swallow, Petrochelidon fulva pallida, in the cave, the lowest of which was four feet above the floor.

Bibliography: Selander, R.K., and J.K. Baker. 1957. The cave swallow in Texas. Condor, 59(6):350.

Widener, D.L., ed. n.d. Edwards Co. Texas Cave Survey, 1(4):32.

Reprinted in: Speleo Digest 1958, p. 1-301. Pittsburgh Grotto Press, 1959.

Ref: TSS files

PERSIMMON CAVE

Edwards County (#2)

No quadrangle

Owner: Holman Estate (Chris Haines, mgr.)

Description: A small solution sink near a persimmon tree drops a few feet to a breakdown slope leading into a room about 40' long, 15' wide, and 5' high. A small drop-off to the right leads down to a point about 20' below the entrance. It was visited on Sept. 30, 1961, by James Reddell, Mills Tandy, David McKenzie, and other members of the University of Texas Grotto and Harold Turney Friess. The cave is in the uppermost part of the upper unnamed formation just below the Del Rio Clay.

Ref: TSS files

PUNKIN CAVE (PUNKIN HEAD CAVE) (BAT CAVE)

Edwards County (#24)

Flat Rock 15' Quadrangle

Owner: Loys Newman

Description: "The main entrance is a 22' by 44.5' hole on the gentle slope of a rocky hill, and in the roof of the cave. The other entrance is a short tunnel 'emptying' into the main room of the cave twenty feet above a guano-dirt-talus hill. Thickness of the overburden in the vicinity of the large entrance ranges from only three feet to near ten feet. The second entrance, the one in which a wooden ladder has been placed, is located 67 feet from the main entrance in a northwesterly direction. The main room of the cave receives a lot of light because of the large entrance in its roof, and the fact that the color of the walls range for the most part from light pink to grey, and reflection is good. The room is quite large, measuring 170 feet by 260 feet and has an average ceiling height of 40 feet. The floor is composed mainly of eroded breakdown sections covered by a thick mixture of decomposed guano, dirt, clay, and feathers and excreta of a number of

Coahuilan Cave Swallows. There is also an assortment of broken bird eggs, and brush, trash and leaves that has either blown in or dropped from the large entrance. In the southern section of the main room are several holes that can be descended for a distance of approximately 100 feet to a low-ceilinged room fifteen to twenty feet in diameter. In this area the air becomes much more humid than in the main level above. To the west of the main room lies the bat section, which is some 20 feet lower than the average main floor level. The air is filled with the smell of ammonia from fresh guano deposits, and is much warmer by contrast than the 100-foot hole. Several hundred bats were noted in this section. There is an area to the right and back of the bat section that has been mined (?) at infrequent intervals for fertilizer. If there are other areas beyond the bat section, they have not been checked out. The shape of the main room and its relation to the 100-foot hole seems to indicate that at a great distance below the floor lies the original floor of the cave." (Anonymous, 1962c) Several small passages extend from the entrance room but go nowhere. One of these is reached via a 10' high ledge on the north wall of the room. This leads into a small tunnel about 40' long. Several crawlways extend from other portions of the room but all end after a short distance. These in general are floored with a whitish crystalline silt. (See map, page 53)

Biology: The cave is of considerable biological interest, if for no other reason than for the abundance of life present. The cave is estimated to possess a colony of 500,000 Mexican free-tail bats, Tadarida brasiliensis mexicana, as well as a colony of several hundred cave swallows, Petrochelidon fulva pallida. Other vertebrates which have been observed in the cave include a rattlesnake, found coiled at the bottom of the ladder on one trip, an owl and a hawk, observed entering the sink, and frogs, Syrhophus marnocki. Other fauna includes bees, cave crickets, harvestmen, epigeal millipeds, hemiptera, Thisterid beetles, staphylinid beetles, tenebrionid beetles, carabid beetles (Rhadine babcocki and R. howdeni), other unidentified beetles, collembola, a tick, spiders, pseudoscorpions, pillbugs, termites, centipedes, and ants. The presence in the cave of thousands of tenebrionid beetles (representing several species) is of interest, as is the presence of several species not usually found in caves. The reason for the latter occurrence appears to be due to two factors. One is that there appears to be a much more varied fauna found in association with cave swallow droppings than only with bat guano. This has been notably observed in Felton Cave, where many species not previously recorded from caves were found on a stalagnite covered with bird droppings. The other reason is the presence of an abundant flora, including several species of fungi, moss, and algae, at the bottom of the entrance drop.

Geology: The following speculations and observations have been made in an article from The Texas Caver. "The solution characteristics of the walls almost to the ceiling do not account for the large amount of breakdown that is present, unless perhaps the cave could have been subject to the following conditions: refilled with water with additional smoothing by solution; weathering of the walls and breakdown; or by parasitic activity... The first and initial trip to the cave by the author and other members of the Abilene Grotto was on a warm still day. It was during this trip that the 100-foot pit was checked out by Bart Crisman, who stated that the small flat-floor room was encountered about the same distance down as the safety rope reached (100 feet). Observed on the first trip was the great activity of the bats, the smooth walls, and the floor was stirred up considerably by the cavers

exploring. It was noted that the beetle population was great also, especially the area beneath the wooden ladder and between there and the 100-foot hole. On the second trip to the cave, it was immediately apparent that the footprints of the previous week were completely smoothed over. It was a cool day, yet there was no wind to speak of. However, there was noted a good amount of dry weeds and grass scattered at places about the room, and also the ever present beetles. The activity of the bats had not decreased and there had not been any rainfall during the week. During the mapping of the cave the walls were examined closely. It appeared that a 'rotting' or eating away had been going on for ages. The rock was quite dry and flakey for a depth of about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch. The condition of the smoothed over floor was not readily explainable. For it to have no indication at all of having been trampled on a week earlier is bordering on the mysterious, except for a couple of possibilities. For one thing, could it be possible that the great number of beetles and other life, crawling back and forth across the soft floor, had in effect, 'smoothed it out?' It would seem that the number required to do this would be much more than the one room cave could support. On the other hand, since the cave was not visited during times of a strong wind, could it be possible for the shape of the cave, and the locations of the two entrances to cause enough air flow in the cave to smooth out the floor? The loose material is very light, and it would not take much of a flow to accomplish this. It would also account for the amount of dry grass, leaves, and brush scattered around the room, and also its decomposition might account for a measure of the thick dry floor mixture ... There had at one time been a fire in the cave (guano) and a yellow sulphurous substance was noted at the mouth of a small side tunnel." (Anonymous, 1962c)

History: Punkin Cave has been known by local people for many years. At one time the cave was mined for guano and at another time a fire in the guano was said to have burned for months. In recent years, only intermittent removal of guano by neighboring ranchers has been done. The cave was visited in October 1962 by Bart Crisman, George Gray, Jim Estes, Ed deBary, Bryant Lilly, and Jim Medlin of the Abilene Grotto. It was mapped in October, 1962, by members of the Abilene Grotto. Most of the trips going to Deep Cave have also included a stop by Punkin Cave. These trips include one on May 18-19, 1963, by Bert Olsen, Norman Robinson, and Pete Lindsley of the Dallas-Fort Worth Grotto and one in February 1964 by members of the Sul Ross Speleological Society and Abilene Grotto. On Feb. 30, 1965, members of the Abilene Grotto and Dallas-Fort Worth Grotto visited the cave. The 1965 Texas Speleological Association project, Project Deep, included biological collections and study in Punkin Cave, but most of this information is not yet available. It will be included in a future report on the project.

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Ref: Jim Estes

RED ARROW CAVE

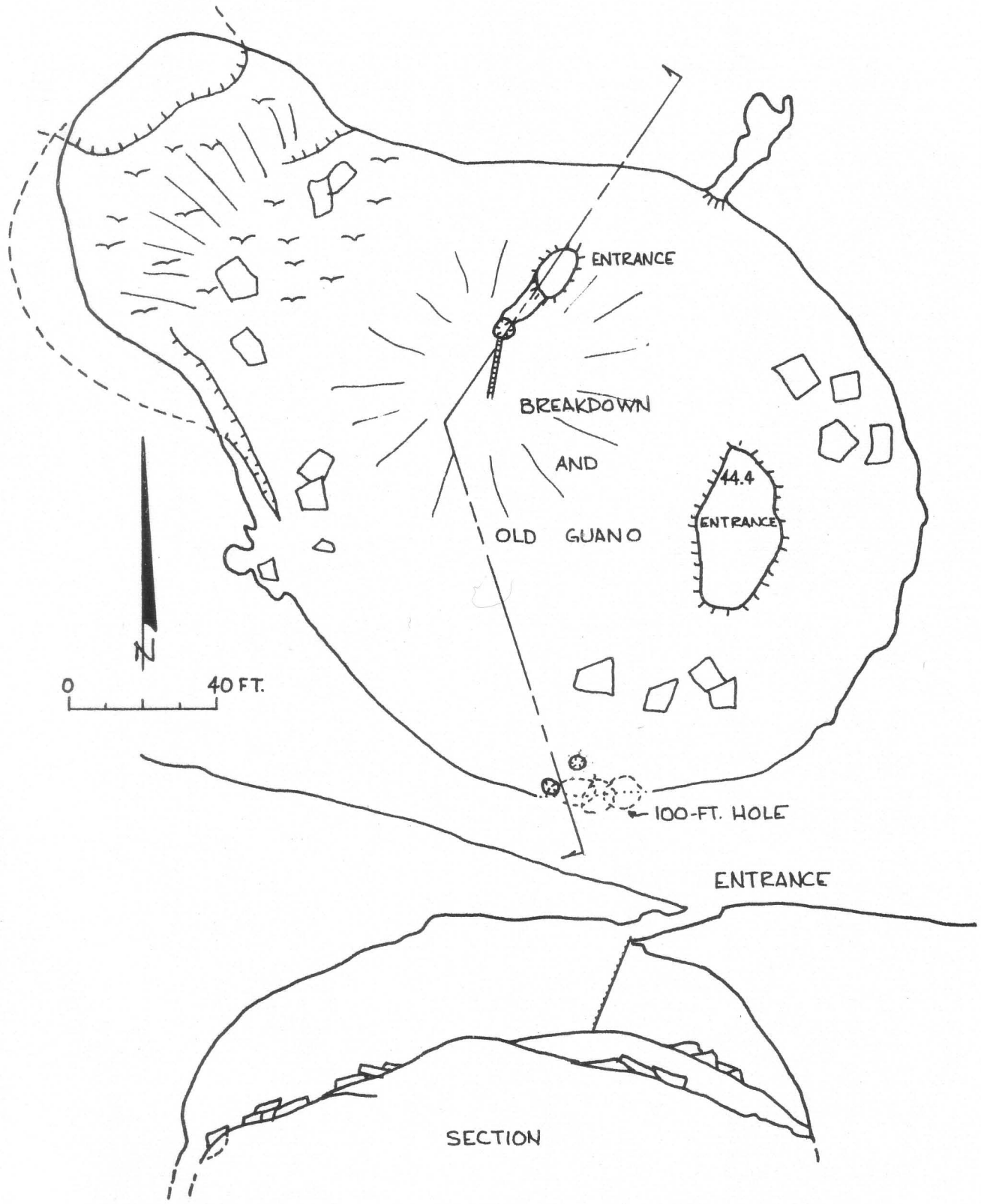
?Edwards County (#18)

?Rocksprings 30' Quadrangle

Manager: Marion Smith

Description: The entrance to the cave is a small sink leading into a low crawlway frequently containing rattlesnakes. After about 50' the passage comes to a junction. To the left a drop-off leads into a room 15' high, about 50' wide, and 70' long, with a crevice along the right wall. To the right a 6' high, 20' wide passage leads to an area of massive flowstone, some formations, and a drop and steep flowstone slope. This extends down into a room about 100' wide and long and with a drop-off and steep slope at its end. This leads down a steep slope for a distance of about 100' where the deepest point in the cave is reached, at about 120', a depth in sharp contrast to the estimated 500' depth of Helmer (1955). There are several large formations and columns along the slope. The ceiling height of this deepest room is about 25'. After about 100' a slope up leads to a large relatively flat-floored room about 150' long, 100' wide, and 30' high. A popcorn-floored room is reached via a drop-off at the end of the previous room. No passage extends from the popcorn-floored room. Besides rattlesnakes and perhaps an occasional copperhead, the cave is also inhabited by scorpions, harvestmen, cave crickets, and a few bats. The cave is quite moist, with several pools of water. Just inside the single large room, about thirty yards inside the entrance, was a colony of mice scampering in and out of holes in a depression in the wall. Of interest also was the discovery of fossilized bones representing the remains of a Cretaceous dinosaur, probably a Plesiosaur. (See map, page 55)

History: The dates, Christmas Day 1915 and 1930, are the only evidences of early exploration of the cave. It was discovered in June, 1955, by Bob Holder, Mel Huebel, Dan Austin, and Ed Smith. Their exploration, however, was thwarted by a five-foot diamondback rattlesnake just inside the narrow crawlway entrance. Three weeks later a second group, including Lynn Allman, Larry Littlefield, Dan Jones, Bill Helmer, Dave Hannah, and Benny Hendrix entered and explored the cave. Other trips have included one in December, 1955, by Bill Helmer, Bob Jones, Don Goodson, Robert Kneip, and Bill Hettler. At that time they encountered two rattlesnakes. A trip was made early in March, 1956, by David Hannah, Fred Berner, Glen Harper, and Dave Kyser. It was mapped by Bill Helmer, Dayton Wodrich, and Tom Winans on July 15, 1956. Members of the Corpus Christi Grotto, led by Harvey



PUNKIN CAVE
EDWARDS CO., TEXAS
MAPPED BY ABILENE GROTTO
1962

Jackson, visited the cave in October, 1956. Since that time and until about 1959 a number of trips were made to the cave. Discourtesies to the owner forced him to close the cave and no trips were made to the cave until Sept. 4, 1965, when Jim Jasek, Frank Jasek, Joe Grote, and Tom Barnette mapped it. This second map is more detailed and is included in this report. The exact location of the cave is not known, but is is sometimes reported in Real County. It is certainly near the county line, regardless of which county it is actually in. It is included here for convenience, even though it may eventually be proved to be in Real County.

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 Ref: James Jasek

RUCKER BAT CAVE (BAT CAVE)

Edwards County (#33)

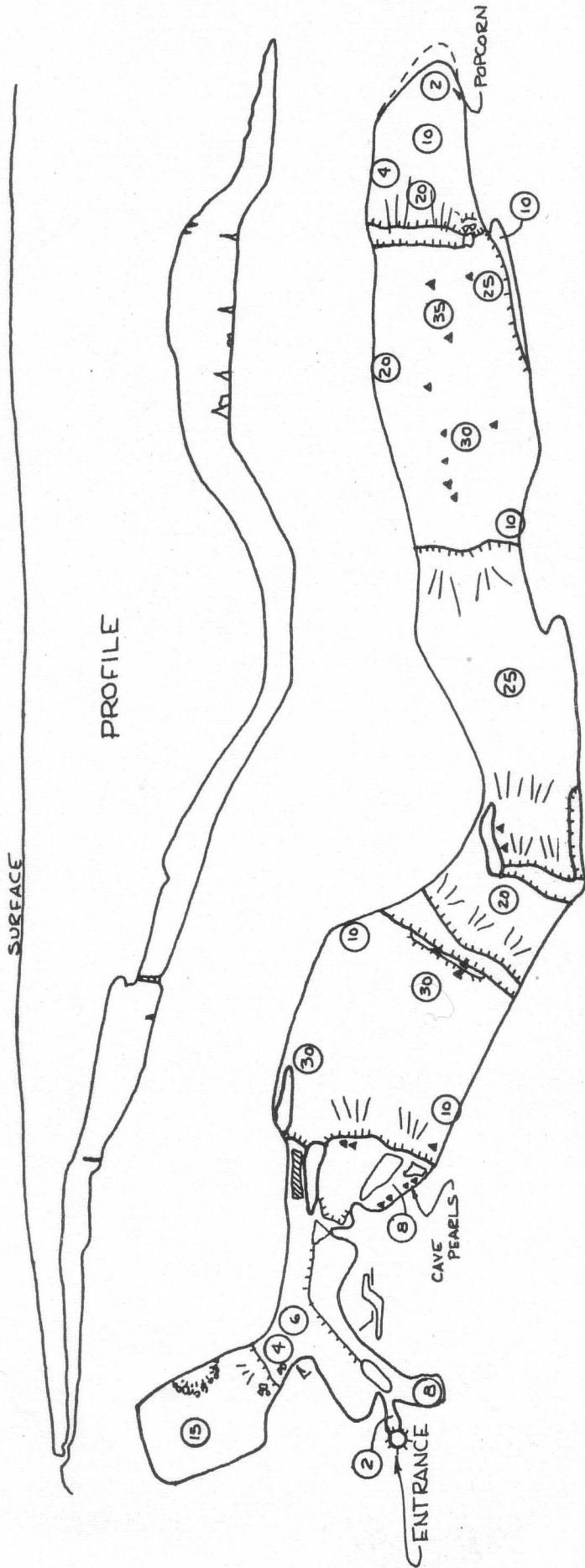
Carta Valley 15' Quadrangle

Owner: E.T. Rucker

Description: The cave is entered through a large arched entrance about 50' x 75', falling vertically for about 40'. The main chamber is about 100' wide, several hundred feet long, and 50'-60' high. Other rooms reportedly exist but nothing is known about them, except that the guano stench was so strong in an upper chamber that it was not fully explored.

History: The cave has been mined for guano from time to time; Mr. Rucker is reported to have removed 3000 tons of guano from the entrance room along. Mining was reported to be in progress in 1957. The cave was first visited by spelunkers in 1955 by Bob and Bart Crisman. Later trips include at least one by James K. Baker to study the cave swallow population. It was also visited by Baker in Feb. 1957.

Biology: The cave is inhabited by a large colony of Mexican free-tail bats, Tadarida brasiliensis mexicana, and by a colony of cave swallows,



RED ARROW CAVE

EDWARDS (?) CO., TEXAS
 BRUNTON & TAPE SURVEY BY
 J. JASEK, F. JASEK, J. GROTE &
 T. BARNETTE, 9-4-65

Petrochelidon fulva pallida. It is reported that the bat flight requires 1 hour and 45 minutes.

- Bibliography: Anonymous. 1956. Report on the Coahuilan cliff swallow. Texas Caver, 1(9):3-4. Reprinted under the title "Swallows that nest in Texas caves" in: NSS News, 15(1):6-7.
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RUNAWAY CAVE

Edwards County (#2)

No quadrangle

Owner: Mrs. Paul Turney

Description: The cave consists of a single oval-shaped room 80' long, 40' wide, and 8'-15' high. The entrance is a 5' in diameter hole that drops vertically for about 18'. At this point, some small alcoves in the wall extend along a bedding plane. A steep slope drops from here about 10' to the floor at one corner of the room. The floor is fairly flat, consisting of silt and old guano. A single stalagmite is featured. About 20 bats were observed on a patch of ceiling about 50' from the entrance. The cave is in the uppermost part of the upper unnamed formation just below the Del Rio Clay. It was explored by James Reddell, Mills Tandy, David McKenzie, and other members of the University of Texas Grotto with Harold Turney Friess. Ref: TSS files

SALTILLO CAVE (SWALLOW CAVE)

Edwards County (#34)

Indian Creek 15' Quadrangle or Carta Valley 15' Quadrangle

Owner: E.T. Rucker

Description: The cave opens through a sink about 8' in diameter which penetrates limestone for about 5' to open in the ceiling of a large chamber having a floor 45' below ground level. Twilight zone illumination prevails throughout the cave. Equipment is needed to enter the cave. There are a few formations in the entrance room, but in the second room there are large

travertine dams, columns, helictites, and other formations. Bones were found in the cave by Ken Baker and identified as a black bear, Ursus americanus amplidens Leidy.

Biology: "On December 2, 1956, Baker estimated that 1500 nests were located in the cave, mostly on the walls of three domes in the ceiling about 40 feet above the floor, and on April 7, 1957, between 2500 and 3000 swallows were present. In all probability this is the largest breeding colony of Cave Swallows in this country. On the cave floor beneath the domes, piles of bird guano up to 5 feet in height have accumulated. One row of about 10 nests apparently had been vandalized by a predator, possibly a ring-tailed cat (Bassariscus astutus), which had gained access to them by scaling the wall. The lowest nests in the cave were about 10 feet above the floor." (Selander and Baker, 1957) In addition to the swallows, Petrochelidon fulva pallida, two ring-tail cats, Bassariscus astutus, were seen when the cave was visited on Jan. 12, 1956.

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Reprinted in: Speleo Digest 1958, p. 1-302. Pittsburgh Grotto Press, 1959.
Ref: TSS files

SHAW'S CAVE (BISHOP'S CAVE)

Edwards County (#30)

Carta Valley 15' Quadrangle

Owner: Ned Bishop

Description: The entrance is an 8' deep vertical hole measuring 6' wide and 9' long located at the bottom of a large funnel-shaped sink measuring nearly 75' in diameter. At the bottom of the entrance hole is the top of a mountain of debris on which a large hackberry tree grows. To the north the cave extends about 300' as one large room with a few old large columns. Beyond the columns is a talus slope going upwards at a 12° angle to the ceiling. To the left of this slope, which is covered with flowstone and a few small dry travertine dams, is a crawlway which extends around the talus slope for at least 80'. On the surface above the talus slope is a shallow dirt-filled sink measuring 30' wide, 100' long, and about 5' deep. To the right of the large north entrance room is a short crawlway leading to a small dry formation room covered with a dirt floor. To the west of the entrance room is another crawl which leads to a low-ceilinged chamber about 50' long and 30' wide. In this room are large formations that dip into the soft fill, indicating that the floor had been much lower at one time. The south portion of the cave is by far the largest. A 400' long large breakdown

and dirt floored passage leads south. There are few formations. The width averages about 50' and the ceiling height averages about 20'. There is one high dome in the Ballroom at the end of the passage. A small passage some 50' long extends from the right rear of this long passage. An eastward-extending large room just inside this south passage goes back for about 120', and contains a mass of large columns and stalagmites. Two large domes go into the ceiling and a white milk-of-magnesia type coloring is plastered on the ceiling and side of one of these domes. From the rear of this side room is a 200' crawlway which contains many small dry formations, and a damp dirt floor. The ceiling averages 3' in height. In the last low room of this extension there is much dry caked mud on the floor with small animal bones in it. This room is apparently the end of the cave. The lowest depth of the cave is 60' and the total length is 1,300'. It is inhabited by cave swallows, Petrochelidon fulva pallida, several species beetle, small white spiders, and millipeds. A small stagnant pool in the large ante-room southeast of the entrance contained what are probably gordian worms. Also observed was one bat. (See map, page 59)

History: Of interest is an old oil stove, cans, wax bars, and box in the small room to the east of the entrance room. The origin of this material is not known for certain. The cave was first reported on March 23, 1957, by Bob and Bart Crisman, but they did not explore it at that time. The cave was first visited by N.S.S. members in late July, 1962, by George Gray, Bart Crisman, and Jim Estes. A return trip was made on Sept. 1, 1962, by George Gray, Ed deBary, and Bryant Lilly of the Abilene Grotto. The cave was mapped in Feb. 1964 by members of the Abilene Grotto.

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 Ref: Jim Estes

TORCH CAVE

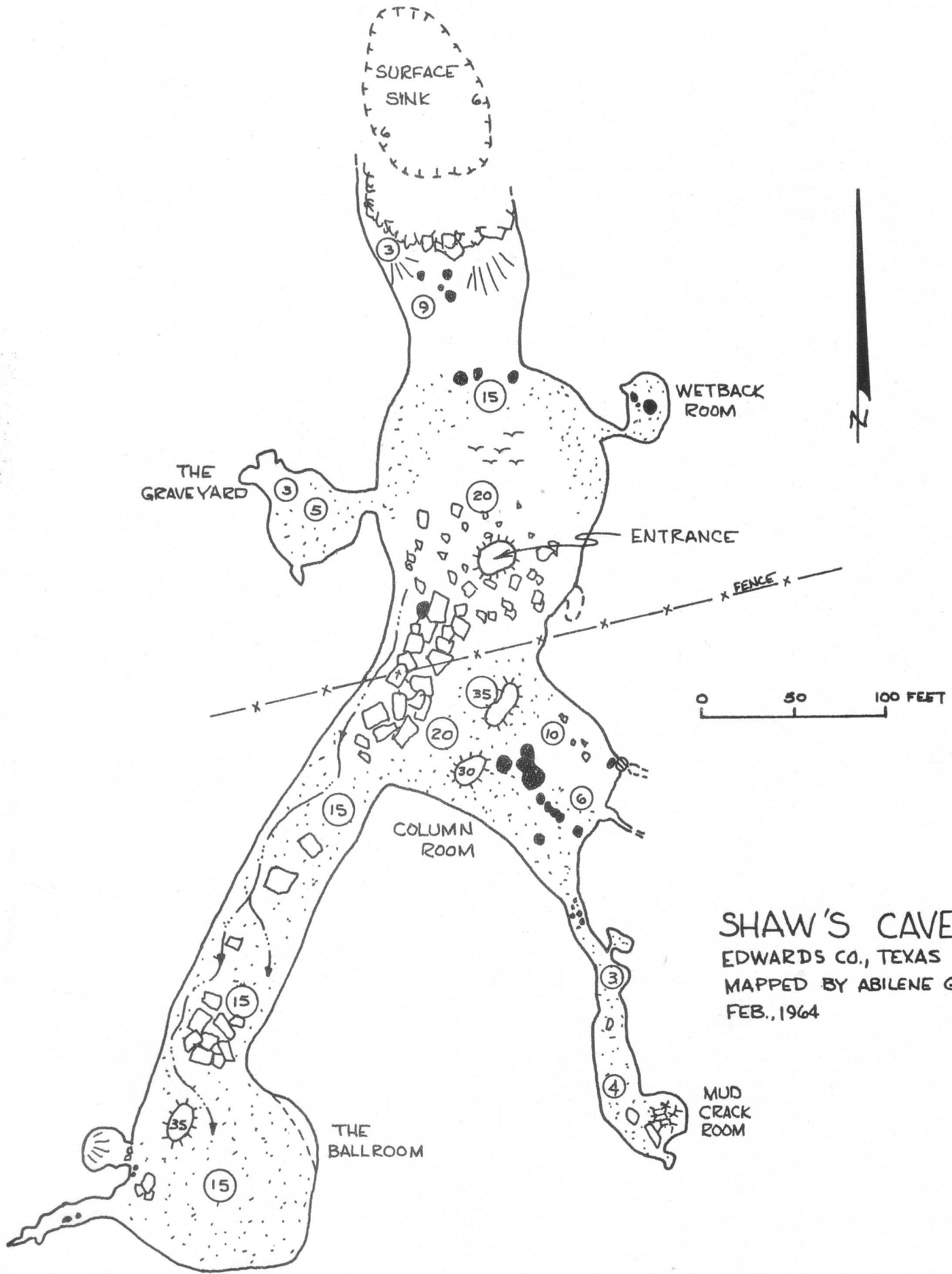
Edwards County (#1)

No quadrangle

Owner: Mrs. Paul Turney

Description: The entrance to the cave is a small solution hole dropping about 15' to a breakdown floor. The cave consists of one main room about 100' long, 20' wide, and 10' high. This room is almost completely filled with massive breakdown. It is possible to climb down along the sides of the breakdown to reach a total depth of about 30'. At one end of the entrance room a squeeze around breakdown leads into a second room, this one being about 30' in diameter and filled with coral-covered breakdown. Much of the coral in the cave is very delicate and quite attractive. Although generally dry there are a few moist areas. The presence of old torches in the entrance room indicates an early exploration. It was visited by James Reddell, Mills Tandy, David McKenzie, and other members of the University of Texas Grotto with Harold Turney Friess. The cave is in the uppermost part of the upper unnamed formation (UUF) just below the Del Rio Clay.

Ref: TSS files



SHAW'S CAVE
 EDWARDS CO., TEXAS
 MAPPED BY ABILENE GROTTO
 FEB., 1964

TRAP CAVE

Edwards County (#11)

No quadrangle

Owner: Ralph Lozano

Description: The entrance is a very small sink 3' wide and 2' deep, with a 16" high crawl leading into the cave. The cave consists of one room 15' wide and 50' long floored with breakdown. The cave contained a trap lost previously by the rancher, one dead raccoon, and raccoon droppings. It was visited in the fall of 1963 by Tom Meador, Jim Estes, and Cleo Lozano.
Ref: TSS files

VANCE CAVE

Edwards County (#43)

Hackberry 15' Quadrangle

State of Texas (owner)

Description: The entrance to the cave is a 3' x 4' hole in a road cut. The presence of guano in the cave, however, indicates that a now-destroyed natural entrance was located on the side of the hill now destroyed by the road cut. From the entrance a 4' high crawlway with a narrow floor slot extends for about 60' before becoming too small. It is possible, however, to squeeze into the slot along the left side of the upper level passage and enter a lower level one. This, for a few feet, is fairly large, being about 10' wide and 4' high. It fills with silt, making it necessary to squeeze through a tight crevice-type passage to enter the main extension of the cave, which consists of two principal levels. The upper level is a wide, low passage ranging usually from 1'-2' high and up to 15' wide. The lower level is a narrow slot which meanders in zig-zag fashion back and forth across the floor of the upper level. At times, however, the divide entirely, the upper level forming a short cut with the lower level being completely separated from the upper. At times it is impossible to follow the upper level because of silt and at times it is impossible to follow the lower because of narrowness. At several points it was necessary to move several inches of dirt to get through extremely low places. At no point did the passage enlarge. With digging, it is still possible to continue beyond the estimated 600' of known passage. The cave was first visited on April 18, 1964, by James Reddell, David McKenzie, and Larry Manire. A trip was made to the cave by Richard Smith, Charles Loving, Terry Raines, Neal Prescott, and Ed Alexander on March 7, 1965.

Biology: A small collection of invertebrates was made by Reddell, McKenzie, and Manire. Millipeds (Speodesmus echinurus), spiders (Nesticus pallidus), immature blind phalangids, unidentified mites, collembola (Pseudosinella petterseni), cave crickets (Ceuthophilus secretus, C. cunicularis), alleculid beetles (Lobopoda subcuneata), and staphylinid beetles (Belonuchus sp., nr noquinus).

Bibliography: Anonymous. 1964. News: University of Texas, N.S.S. Texas Caver, 9(5):81-82.

Reddell, J.R. 1965. A checklist of the cave fauna of Texas. I. The Invertebrata (exclusive of Insecta). Texas Journal of Science, 17(2): 143-187.

Reddell, J.R. 1966. A checklist of the cave fauna of Texas. II.
Insecta. Texas Journal of Science. (In press)

Ref: TSS files

WHEAT CAVE (WHEAT CAVE NO. 2)

Edwards County (#6)

No quadrangle

Owner: Jym Adanson

Description: The entrance to the cave is a 32" x 24" solution hole near the top of a low hill. The drop into the cave is 15' and a ladder made of wire and cedar rungs hangs in place. The entrance drop leads into a large chamber from which several passages extend. Following the main passage for about 150' a large room, about 100' in diameter, is reached. This forms a junction with two main passages extending from it. That to the right leads for about 200' at which point a row of joint-controlled formations divides the passage into halves for about 60'. This has been named the Chinese Wall. About 200' farther along the passage the Fairy Curtain is found. This is an 8' long curtain formed by stalactites and columns and is covered with long delicate helictites. About 100' farther along the passage a breakdown has blocked the passage, but it is possible to climb up along either side of the passage and into the "Round Room". Six passages leave this room, but all dead-end within 30'. From the intersection a passage to the left extends about 150' before branching. Each branch soon narrows to numerous impassable squeezeways. On the left side of the passage from entrance to intersection a crawlway leads to a series of medium-sized rooms, all soon narrowing to impassability. From the entrance room several holes in the floor lead down to a level about 50' below the surface. Here there are three rooms with a total length of 200'. Impassable holes extend from these rooms. From the intersection the main passage extends as a 60' wide, 10' high tunnel for about 200'. A low alcove at this point extends about 50' to the right, but becomes too small. From the alcove massive breakdown eventually necessitates crawling and the cave finally ends in breakdown and silt fill. (See map, page 63)

Biology: Dr. O.G. Babcock and F.C. Bishopp in 1926-1933 made several collections in the cave. Their collections included cave crickets (Ceuthophilus sp., nr unbratilis), carabid beetles (Rhadine babcocki), staphylinid beetles, and a phalangid (Leiobunum sp.) Rhadine babcocki has also been collected in this cave by S.K. Jones. A collection of invertebrates was made in the cave on Sept. 21, 1963, by James Reddell and David McKenzie. This included pseudoscorpions, spiders (Achaearanea porteri), collembola (Pseudosinella petterseni), cave crickets (Ceuthophilus sp., and C. cunicularis), carabid beetles (Rhadine babcocki), and tenebrionid beetles. The skeleton of a bull snake was found at the bottom of the entrance drop by Dr. Babcock.

History: The cave is rumored to have been used as a munitions store house by Pancho Villa, but there is no evidence to support this. The earliest known explorations were by Mr. Ben L. Wheat, the owner after whom the cave is named. During the 1920's and 1930's it was visited by Dr. O.G. Babcock of Sonora, who made collections of invertebrates in the cave. Col. Adanson is reported to have visited the cave, but did not find all of the cave now known. It has also been visited on several occasions by local people, but the lack of vandalism attests to its obscure location and small entrance.

The cave was first visited by cavers on Oct. 13, 1957, when members of the Corpus Christi and Alamo Grottos discovered the cave. At that time a map of all but the main northeast passage was made. A trip was made to the cave on Feb. 5, 1960, by Bill Russell, James Reddell, Bartel Morgan, and Tom White and a map prepared of the cave. This map is lacking in detail, but is complete except for the crawlway mazes around the entrance and from the "Round Room." Neither of the two available maps is adequate and this interesting cave should be completely and accurately surveyed. The most recent trip to the cave was a collecting trip made on Sept. 21, 1963, by James Reddell, David McKenzie, and Harold Turney Friess.

- Bibliography: Anonymous. 1958. News prints info from Alamo, CC and Dallas Grottos. *Texas Caver*, 3(1):21.
- Barr, T.C., Jr. 1960. The cavernicolous beetles of the subgenus Rhadine, genus Agonum (Coleoptera: Carabidae). *American Midland Naturalist*, 64(1):45-65.
- Jackson, H.R. 1958. Wheat Cave explored and mapped. *Texas Caver*, 3(1):6-7.
- Kunath, C. 1965. Ye olde history. Privately printed. 60 pp.
- Reddell, J. 1961. Texas Speleological Survey. *Texas Caver*, 6(4):53-54.
- Reddell, J.R. 1965. A checklist of the cave fauna of Texas. I. The Invertebrata (exclusive of Insecta). *Texas Journal of Science*, 17(2):143-187.
- Reddell, J.R. 1966. A checklist of the cave fauna of Texas. II. Insecta. *Texas Journal of Science*. (In press)

Ref: TSS files

WHEAT CAVE NO. 1

Edwards County (#5)

No quadrangle

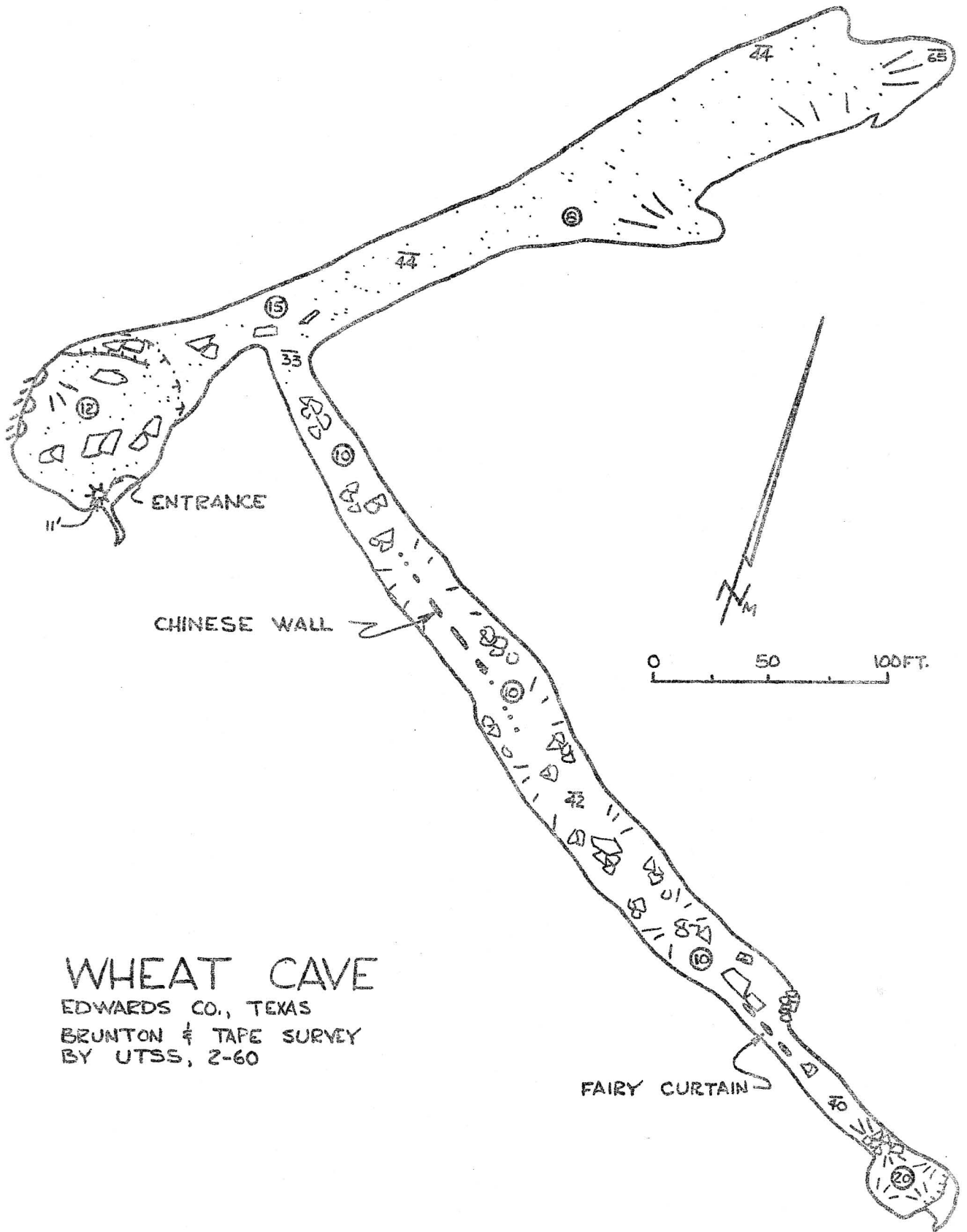
Owner: Jym Adamson

Description: This is reported to be a small cave located near the Wheat Ranch headquarters. The total length of the cave is about 150'. It was explored and biological collections were made in it by Dr. O.G. Babcock.

Biology: Dr. Babcock reports the following animals from this cave: spiders (Physocyclus enaulus and Achaearanea porteri), mites (Subfamily Liponissinae and Leiodynychus sp.), millipeds (Cambala speobia), crickets (Ceuthophilus sp.), fleas (Myodopsylla collinsi and Echidnophaga gallinacea), and flies (Leptomtopa sp.). The cave was also found inhabited by bats and by a vulture. The bones of javelina were also found in the cave.

- Bibliography: Reddell, J.R. 1965. A checklist of the cave fauna of Texas. I. The Invertebrata (exclusive of Insecta). *Texas Journal of Science*, 17(2):143-187.
- Reddell, J.R. 1966. A checklist of the cave fauna of Texas. II. Insecta. *Texas Journal of Science*. (In press)

Ref: TSS files



WHEAT CAVE
 EDWARDS CO., TEXAS
 BRUNTON & TAPE SURVEY
 BY UTSS, 2-60

WHITWORTH RANCH BAT CAVE (BAT CAVE)

Edwards County (#38)

Indian Creek 15' Quadrangle

Owner: John Whitworth

Description: This cave is reported to be a "large, unpleasant shelter cave which develops in two directions for several hundred feet before becoming plugged with guano. Several hundred thousand bats inhabit this humid, parasite-ridden cave." (Cuevas, Guthrie, Hilliard, and Trombley, 1959)

Bibliography: Anonymous. 1960. Notes, news and letters. NSS News, 18(1):2.
Cuevas, E., J. Guthrie, H. Hilliard, and I. Trombley. 1959. John Whitworth's caves, Texas. Ibid, 17(11):160-163.

Ref: TSS files

WHITWORTH RANCH SHELTER CAVE (GOAT SHELTER)

Edwards County (#37)

Indian Creek 15' Quadrangle

Owner: John Whitworth

Description: The entrance to this cave is about 50' wide. This opens into a room about 100' in diameter with a dirt slope leading up at the back to an end. Located near Hilltop Cave it is the principal landmark and is visited by almost every group visiting Hilltop or Dragoo Caves.

Bibliography: Anonymous. 1960. Abilene group tours Dragool-Hilltop with scouts. Texas Caver, 5(2):10.
Anonymous. 1964. News: Abilene, N.S.S. Ibid, 9(3):47.
Cuevas, E., J. Guthrie, H. Hilliard, and I. Trombley. 1959. John Whitworth's caves, Texas. NSS News, 17(11):160-163.
Money, R. 1957. Davis Ranch and Dragool Cave field trip. Texas Caver, 2(2):6.

Ref: TSS files

WILDCAT HOLE

Edwards County (#28)

Carta Valley 15' Quadrangle

Owner: S. Merlin Davis

Description: The cave is entered through a small hole shaped like a cat eye. It consists of an anteroom with a connecting main chamber which is about 85' long, 64' wide, and 37' high. There are numerous leads from the main room, the longest of which opens from the right side near the back and consists of a water course. With the exception of one or two "keyholes", this is about 4' high and runs consistently downward at a 15° angle for about 200'-250'. There are a few formations, none of which are remarkable. The cave contains evidence of use by wildcats, in the form of tracks and small animal bones. It was explored by Harvey Jackson, Bob Money, Jerry Harwood, Paul Hanson, Bob Moore, and Buddy "Hammock" Frank on the weekend of Feb. 22, 1957.

Bibliography: Money, R. 1957. Davis Ranch and Dragool Cave field trip.
Texas Caver, 2(2):6.

Ref: TSS files

WINTERS TRASH CAVE

Edwards County

? Quadrangle

Owner: Winters Ranch

Description: The entrance to the cave is about 10' wide and 15' long. A drop of several feet lets one onto a great mound of trash. The sink is filled on all but one side, where it is possible to squeeze over the trash and into a wide crawlway about 1' high. This continues unexplored. The total length of the cave as explored was 50' and the total depth about 25'. Of interest were the presence of 20 year old beer cans. The cave was explored on March 7, 1965, by Charlie Loving, Neal Prescott, Terry Raines, Richard Smith, and Ed Alexander of the University of Texas Grotto.

Ref: Ed Alexander

WYATT CAVE (TURNEY CAVE) (WESTFALL CAVE)

Edwards County (#4)

No quadrangle

Owner: Mrs. Paul Turney

Description: The entrance to the cave is a 10' in diameter sink in a small grove of trees near the top of a hill. A drop of 10' leads to a talus slope which drops at a 10° angle for about 40' at which point it opens into a room 80' long, 30' wide, and about 10' high. A partition of formations extends about half-way across the room just at the base of the talus slope. One or two small holes also admit light into the middle of this room, but are too small to enter. A slope up at the end of the room leads to a crawlway at the end of which a 4' drop leads into a 15' high, 60' long, 40' wide bat room. A crawlway along the left wall leads back towards the entrance but becomes too small. A passage across from the entrance into this room extends about 40' to a 6' drop into an irregular-shaped room. The right extension of this room leads back through formations towards the entrance but ends in breakdown. This room which is about 40' long leads almost immediately into another from which three passages extend. That to the left leads after about 50' into a cross passage. To the left this extends as a 4'-6' high passage for about 60' before ending. This is the most moist area of the cave and there are several small groups of live formations. To the right the cross passage extends for about 200' before ending. This section is not surveyed. From the junction room the passage to the right leads up a guano slope into a bat room, turns left, and soon connects with the other passage from the junction room. From here two low parallel passages extend for about 50' before connecting in another small room. A crevice at the end of this room drops about 3' into a low flat room about 10' in diameter and 2' high. No passages lead from this room. (See map, page 68)

Biology: This is one of the more noted biological caves in Texas. It is the type locality of the widely distributed blind milliped, Cambala speobia (Chamberlin), which was originally described as a new genus, Eclytus, but

which later proved to belong in the genus Cambala. This description was based on material collected in September and October, 1924, and June and July, 1926, by F.C. Bishopp and O.G. Babcock. Other material collected from this cave by Dr. Babcock in the 1920's and 1930's includes the following: cave crickets (Ceuthophilus sp. and C. secretus), flies (Leptomtopa sp., Synthesiomyia nudiseta, Rhymosia sp., and Trichobius major), trichoptera larvae, carabid beetles (Rhadine babcocki), spiders (Achaearanea porteri), pseudoscorpions, and harvestmen (Leiobunum sp.) Dr. Babcock is probably also the collector of the psocid, Psyllipsocus ramburii Selys-Lonchamps, taken in this cave on July 23, 1926. A collection of fauna was made on September 21, 1963, by James Reddell and David McKenzie. This is included in the following complete faunal list:

Snails

Helicodiscus eigenmanni Pilsbry -- troglophile

Millipeds

Cambala speobia (Chamberlin) -- troglobite

Speodesmus echinurus Loomis -- troglobite

Pseudoscorpions

Spiders

Cicurina sp. -- troglobite

Meioneta sp. -- troglophile

Achaearanea porteri (Banks) -- troglophile

Harvestmen

Leiobunum sp. -- troglaxene

Collembola

Pseudosinella petterseni Borner -- troglophile

Cave crickets

Ceuthophilus sp. -- troglaxene

Ceuthophilus secretus Scudder -- troglaxene

Trichoptera (larvae)

Psocids

Psyllipsocus ramburii Selys-Longchamps -- troglophile

Moth

Myrmecozela sp., nr effrenatella Clem. -- troglophile

Flies

Synthesiomyia nudiseta van der Wulp -- accidental

Rhymosia sp. -- accidental

Leptomtopa sp. -- troglophile

Trichobius major Coq. -- troglaxene

Beetles

Rhadine babcocki (Barr) -- troglophile

Batrisodes sp. -- troglobite

Belonuchus sp., nr moquinus Casey -- troglophile

Embaphion muricatum muricatum (Say) -- troglaxene

Snakes

Crotalus lepidus (Kennicott) -- accidental

Bats

History: The cave was visited and collections made by Dr. O.G. Babcock and F.C. Bishopp in the 1920's and 1930's. It was rediscovered on Feb. 18, 1956, by Holmes Semken, Don Goodson, Larry Littlefield, Arthur Carroll, and Bill Helmer. At that time a rough map was made of the cave. The cave was re-visited on Feb. 5, 1960, by Bill Russell, James Reddell, Bartel Morgan, and Tom White and a new map made. This map is less complete than the earlier one, but shows more detail. Neither are good maps and the cave should be

resurveyed. The last recorded trip to the cave was made on Sept. 21, 1963, by James Reddell and David McKenzie.

- Bibliography: Anonymous. 1956. "Several field trips have been..." Texas Caver, 1(3):2. Reprinted in: Speleo Digest 1956, pp. 1-61, 62. Pittsburgh Grotto Press, 1957.
- Causey, N.B. 1964. New cavernicolous millipeds of the family Cambalidae from Texas and Mexico. International Journal of Speleology, 1(1-2): 237-246, plates 58-59.
- Causey, N.B. 1959. Two new troglodytic millipeds from Texas. Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington, 72:69-74.
- Chamberlin, R.V. 1952. Three cave-dwelling millipeds. Entomological News, 63(1):10-11.
- Chamberlin, R.V., and R.L. Hoffman. 1958. Checklist of the millipeds of North America. United States National Museum Bull., 212:175.
- Kunath, C. 1965. Ye olde history. Privately printed. 60 pp.
- Loomis, H.F. 1953. New millipeds of the western states and Lower California. Journal of the Washington Academy of Sciences, 43(12):417-422.
- Mockford, E.L., and A.B. Gurney. 1956. A review of the psocids, or book-lice and bark-lice of Texas (Psocoptera). Journal of the Washington Academy of Sciences, 46(11):353-368.
- Reddell, J. 1961. Texas Speleological Survey. Texas Caver, 6(4):53-54.
- Reddell, J.R. 1965. A checklist of the cave fauna of Texas. I. The Invertebrata (exclusive of Insecta). Texas Journal of Science, 17(2): 143-187.
- Reddell, J.R. 1966. A checklist of the cave fauna of Texas. II. Insecta. Texas Journal of Science. (In press)

Ref: TSS files

SHELTERS

GUTHRIE SHELTERS

Edwards County

Rocksprings 30' Quadrangle

Owner: Perry Guthrie

Description: A number of shelter caves were checked out on this ranch, but none noteworthy were found. One contained a number of newborn buzzards, and some were said to be inhabited by javelina. None exceeded 10' in length.

Bibliography: Estes, J. 1963. Abilene Grotto visits Guthrie Cave. Texas Caver, 8(7):73.

Ref: Jim Estes

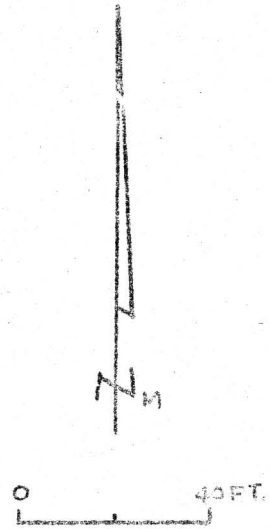
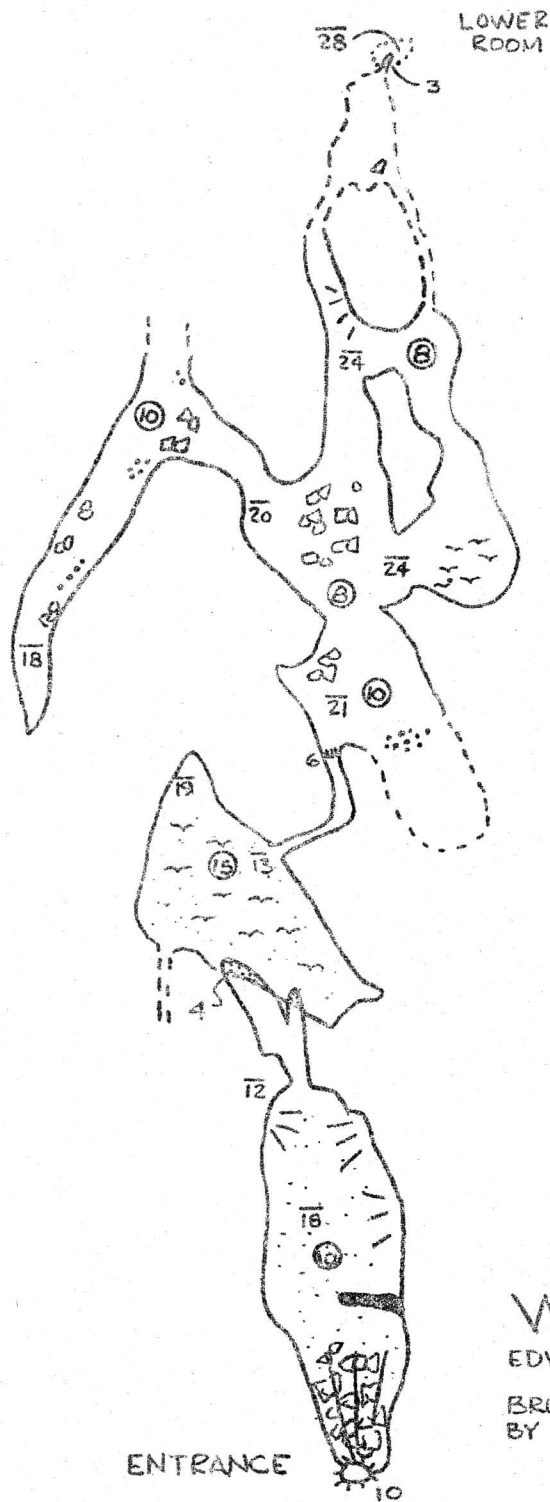
UNNAMED SHELTER (SITE NO. 103)

Edwards County

? Quadrangle

Owner: unknown

Description: A.T. Jackson (1938) reports this as an overhanging bluff about 150' long and containing burnt rocks and other midden material in its western half. About 10' above a perennial stream it floods at times. There are a few badly vandalized pictographs.



WYATT CAVE

EDWARDS CO., TEXAS

BRUNTON & TAPE SURVEY
BY UTSS, 2-59

Bibliography: Jackson, A.T. 1938. Picture-writing of Texas Indians, pp. 239-240. University of Texas Publ. 3809.

Ref: TSS files

UNNAMED SHELTER (SITE NO. 104)

Edwards County

? Quadrangle

Owner: unknown

Description: "A local citizen reports a few dim paintings on the wall of a rock shelter in the southeastern part of the county. The pictures have not been examined by anyone from the University of Texas." (Jackson, 1938)

Bibliography: Jackson, A.T. 1938. Picture-writing of Texas Indians, p. 240. University of Texas Publ. 3809.

Ref: TSS files

UNNAMED SHELTER (SITE NO. 105)

Edwards County

? Quadrangle

Owner: unknown

Description: This site is located at the head of a small creek and contains a few dim paintings, including one of a man.

Bibliography: Jackson, A.T. 1938. Picture-writing of Texas Indians, p. 240. University of Texas Publ. 3809.

Ref: TSS files

UNNAMED SHELTER (SITE NO. 106)

Edwards County

? Quadrangle

Owner: unknown

Descriptions: "A few dim paintings have been reported on the wall of an overhanging bluff. They have not been examined by a representative of this department of The University of Texas." (Jackson, 1938)

Bibliography: Jackson, A.T. 1938. Picture-writing of Texas Indians, p. 241. University of Texas Publ. 3809.

Ref: TSS files

UNNAMED SHELTER (SITE NO. 107)

Edwards County

? Quadrangle

Owner: unknown

Description: "A few pictographs on the shelter wall were reported by the late W.V. Huskey of Uvalde, Texas." (Jackson, 1938)

Bibliography: Jackson, A.T. 1938. Picture-writing of Texas Indians, p. 241.
University of Texas Publ. 3809.

Ref: TSS files

UNNAMED SHELTER (SITE NO. 111)

Edwards County

? Quadrangle

Owner: unknown

Description: "A few pictographs are on the roof of a small shelter that measures 20 x 8 x 5 feet. In front of the shelter is a burnt-rock midden. The paintings, in red, are in a rather poor state of preservation."
(Jackson, 1938)

Bibliography: Jackson, A.T. 1938. Picture-writing of Texas Indians, p. 244.
University of Texas Publ. 3809.

Ref: TSS files

UNNAMED SHELTERS (SITES NOS. 112-117)

Edwards County

? Quadrangle

Owners: unknown

Description: "W.V. Huskey reported pictographs at a number of rock shelters that have not been examined by this department of The University of Texas."
(Jackson, 1938)

Bibliography: Jackson, A.T. 1938. Picture-writing of Texas Indians, p. 244.
University of Texas Publ. 3809.

Ref: TSS files