

# TEXAS SPELEOLOGICAL SURVEY

THE CAVES OF  
BREWSTER AND WESTERN PECOS COUNTIES

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# TEXAS SPELEOLOGICAL SURVEY

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County or area cave surveys and other publications are generally, but not always edited by the TSS staff. The TSS is interested in working with individuals or groups who are undertaking, or may be considering, a county or area survey or some cave related scientific study.

TEXAS SPELEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Vol. IV, No. 1

THE CAVES OF BREWSTER AND WESTERN PECOS COUNTIES

Ronald G. Fieseler and Carl E. Kunath  
Editors

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## INTRODUCTION

The Caves of Brewster and Western Pecos Counties has been long in the making. Information was very scarce until a caving group was organized in Alpine at Sul Ross State University. Originally known as the Sul Ross Speleological Society (SRSS) and later as the Trans-Pecos Speleological Society (TPSS), this club was instrumental in gathering data and making initial discoveries in this area and others in west Texas. Cavers active at this time were Elbert Bassham, Carl Kunath, Robert Schroeder, Grainger Hunt, Jim Rector, Bill Bourbon, Nick Lucas, Bill Russell, James Reddell, and many others. Some of the cavers mentioned were from Austin while most lived in Alpine.

In 1964, just prior to his graduation, Carl Kunath gathered all the information available to him. This accumulation of material over 11 years ago comprised the nucleus for this issue.

Since then, the area has seen sporadic discoveries and exploration. The club has changed its name once again, this time to the Paisano Grotto. They still do some work in the area, but the small size of the club seems to limit the amount of work done due to difficulty in getting enough people together for a trip. Individuals and groups from Dallas, Austin, San Angelo, Houston, San Marcos and San Antonio have made occasional trips there. In summary, the Big Bend region has hardly been touched.

The main problems with gathering cave data in this area is its remoteness and primitiveness. It is a long drive to the area to begin with. Once there, the rough terrain and the lack of roads and people make it difficult to locate caves. Early explorers had no topo maps and as a result, several caves found in the 1960's have such poor locations that we cannot indicate them on the location map. Significant perhaps is the fact that the area with the most caves is the Terlingua area, which has several roads, a long history of inhabitation, and has been heavily visited by cavers.

This is one area of Texas that will probably never be heavily populated. Of these few people, fewer still will be interested in caves. It is likely then that the number of caves found in this region will grow slowly, as it has in the past, relying primarily on occasional trips by groups of cavers from many localities.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The TSS wishes to thank all of the cavers who have contributed information to the files. Among those contributing most in the production of this issue and who are due special thanks are: Robert C. Schroeder, who visited many caves and collected biological specimens; Elbert Bassham, who had many reports, maps, and locations; Dwight Deal, who sifted through the files making entries and corrections; Randy Reynolds, who had much of the more recent data; Charles Fromen, who sent in several maps; Express Press, Inc. (Austin, Texas), who generously allowed the use of its facilities; and Susan Fieseler who helped on the typing, proofreading, collating, etc. and gave encouragement when difficulties arose.

## GEOLOGY

Brewster County is Texas' largest at 6208 square miles; it is also the most mountainous and most remote. Best known for Big Bend National Park, the county depends heavily on tourists for its income. Principal towns include Alpine, which is the county seat and home of Sul Ross University, Marathon, Terlingua, and Study Butte. The climate is semi-arid with hot summers and cold winters; rain falls during summer thunder showers, and snow occasionally blankets the area during the winter.

The county lies partly in four physiographic regions: Edwards Plateau to the east, eroded and folded mountains in the north central part, volcanic Davis Mountains in the northwest, and block-faulted mountains and volcanic landforms over the remainder. Mountainous areas generally are very rugged. Steep slopes and high cliffs mark the very rugged mountainous areas; pediments slope away from the mountains into alluviated valleys. The highest mountain peaks are Mt. Emory at 7,835 feet and Lost Mine Peak at 7,550. The Rio Grande enters the county's southwest corner at an elevation of 2200 feet and falls 350 feet as it passes through the spectacular Santa Elena, Marascal, and Boquillas canyons, each more than 1600 feet deep.

Geologically, Brewster County is so complex that it defies description in a few pages of text, so only a summary of the general geology and some comments about the cave-containing rocks can be given here.

Paleozoic rocks are exposed in the Marathon Basin (P. B. King, 1938), ranging from the Dagger Flat Sandstone of Cambrian age upward into rocks of Pennsylvanian age. These rocks are exposed in intensely folded and thrust-faulted structures of Appalachian-style and probably represent the eroded part of the mostly buried, ancient Ouachita Mountains. The most obvious rock unit in the Marathon Basin and an excellent stratigraphic marker is the light-colored Caballos Novaculite, a very resistant chert unit that is commonly exposed as flat-irons or ridges around anticlinal mountains. Although limestone occurs in the Marathon, Fort Peña, Maravillas, and Dimple Formation, caves are only known in the Caballos (Three Mile Hill Cave) and Dimple (Donnell's Dead Deer Pit).

The Glass Mountains have always excited the interest of cavers because of the thick sequence of Permian limestone and dolomite which correlate in part with the rocks of the Guadalupe Mountains. The Glass Mountains, unlike the mountainous areas of the Marathon Basin, are the eroded rocks of a SSE-facing cuesta formed on NNW-dipping, gently folded rocks. Northwest-trending normal faults of 50 to 500 feet of throw cut through the mountains. The principal thick limestone units in the Glass Mountains are the Leonard, Wolfcamp, and Capitan Formations, about 2000, 1200, and 1800 feet thick, respectively. Even with these enormously thick and areally extensive exposures of carbonate rocks, only 8 caves are known in the Glass Mountains. The most notable is 400-Foot Cave; it and all the others except Split Tank Cave are in the Capitan. Split Tank Cave is in the Leonard Formation. Certainly the Glass Mountains can yield other large caves comparable to 400-Foot Cave, but access is a continuing problem.

The Del Norte Mountains form a high ridge along the west side of the Glass Mountains and the Marathon Basin, continuing south as the Santiago Mountains. The east face of these ranges generally corresponds to a narrow zone of high-angle thrust faults cutting the Paleozoic rocks and the overlying Cretaceous rocks. Cretaceous-age limestone and dolomite, equivalent to the Edwards and Georgetown Formations, are the principal cave-bearing rocks exposed in this mountain ridge. Although up to 1500 feet of limestone and dolomite are exposed, no caves are known in the Del Norte and Santiago ranges outside of Big Bend, probably because of very difficult terrain and limited access by road.

The most visited area in Brewster County is the Big Bend, consisting primarily of the Big Bend National Park but including the Terlingua area. Three principal rock groups occur in the area--thick limestones of Middle Cretaceous age like those of the Del Norte and Santiago Mountains, thick, irregularly interbedded clay and sandstone of Late Cretaceous and Tertiary age, and thick eruptive and waterlaid volcanic rocks of Tertiary age. Block faulting and tilting have broken up the area, resulting in remarkable juxtaposition of rock units and fracturing the limestones to provide routes for underground water movement.

Most of the caves known in Big Bend outside of the Terlingua area are small and most are in Cretaceous limestone. The notable exception is Mt. Emory Cave in Tertiary volcanic rock, probably following a structural fissure. Inadequate examination of the area is partly responsible for the small number of caves known, but apparently few caves have formed due to long continued dry-climate conditions in Big Bend.

The Terlingua area, a small part of Big Bend, is a notable exception to the sparseness of caves in the region. Aside from Terlingua Sinkhole and a few small caves, all the other known caves were discovered by underground mining for cinnabar. Although interpretations of cave origin in the cinnabar district are still somewhat controversial, the caves appear to have formed at least partly by rising geothermal solutions which also deposited the cinnabar and other unusual minerals.

An intriguing and unstudied area of pseudokarst is known in Cretaceous - Tertiary clays just north of Study Butte. Other similar areas no doubt will be found in the same age clays elsewhere in Big Bend.

The likelihood of finding large caves in Brewster County is small even though rocks and structures are favorable. Two factors weighing against finding big ones are the apparently very long history of little rainfall which limited excavation of caves and the extreme difficulty of the terrain which limits discovery of caves which do exist. Rumors and stories of vast caverns excite the interest of some cavers, but only when a resident of the county makes a long and concerted effort will we really know much about Brewster County speleology.

A. Richard Smith  
March 24, 1975

INDEX TO THE CAVES OF BREWSTER AND WESTERN PECOS COUNTIES

TSS NO.	NAME	LOCALITY	LENGTH	DEPTH	PAGE
*1.	Big Midden Shelter	Reagan Canyon	35'	15'	1
*2.	Box Canyon Cave	BBNP	40'	?	2
*3.	C. F. Cox Cave	Marathon	250'	40'	2
4.	Clifford's Qal Cave	Marathon	28'	?	3
5.	Contratiro Cave	Terlingua	100'+	135-160	3
6.	Doughnut Mountain Cave	Alpine	250'	70'	4
7.	Doughnut Mountain Sink	Alpine	0	70'	4
8.	400 Foot Cave	Glass Mtns.	2000'+	312'	5
*9.	Guano Cave	BBNP	150'	?	8
10.	Histoplasmosis Cave	Terlingua	300'	+15'	8
11.	Indian Cave	Alpine	175'+	?	10
12.	Johnson's Cave	BBNP	30'	10'	11
13.	Side of the Road Sink	Terlingua	30'+	80'	12
14.	Lichnovsky's Cave-----	Found to be in Pecos County			
15.	Little "38" Mine Cave	Terlingua	?	375'	12
16.	Magill's Crystal Sinkhole	Black Rock	275'	35'	15
*17.	Mariscal Canyon Cave	BBNP	100'	30'	16
18.	Mt. Emory Cave	BBNP	?	100'+	17
19.	O. T. L. Cave	Alpine	500'+	112'	18
20.	Pick Axe Cave	Alpine	125'	?	20
21.	Pothole Canyon Cave #1	Santiago Mtns.	100'	0	21
22.	Pothole Canyon Cave #2	Santiago Mtns.	110'	0	21
23.	Pothole Canyon Cave #3	Santiago Mtns.	50'	0	22
24.	Rector's Cave	Alpine	70'+	?	22
*25.	Rock Cave	Marathon	250'	50'	22
26.	Split Tank Cave	Glass Mtns.	220'+	35'	23
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28.	Terlingua Sinkhole	Terlingua	300'	100'+	26
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*30.	Tunnel Cave	Marathon	30'	?	28
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32.	Watters Cave	Terlingua	60'	40'	31
33.	Watters Trash Cave	Terlingua	20'	21'	31
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*36.	Picturesque Canyon Shelter Cave	BBNP	38'	?	33
*37.	Coffee Break Cave	Alpine	100'	?	33
38.	Corn Grinder Cave	Study Butte	75'	?	34
39.	Hunting Camp Cave	Terlingua	31'+	+3'	35
40.	Chisos Mine Cave	Terlingua	50'	725'	36
41.	601 Adit Cave	Terlingua	50'	?	36
*42.	Terlingua Ranch Cave	Terlingua	146'	5'+	36
43.	Donnell's Dead Deer Pit	Marathon	35'	100'	38
44.	Barbara's Cave	Solitario	200'	83'	40
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46.	Bee Cave	Black Peak	37'	0	42

*47.	Lava Tube	Marathon	100'	?	42
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*49.	Sunny Glen Canyon Cave #1	Alpine	80'	?	43
50.	Boquillas Canyon Cave	BBNP	40'	0	45
51.	Pit near Whistling Cave	Terlingua	?	20'+	46
*52.	Cave in Ernst Valley	BBNP	150'	?	46
*53.	Cave in West Mariscal Canyon	BBNP	50'+	?	46
54.	Bee Hive Sink	Agua Fria Mtn.	?	20'+	47
*55.	Cave in East Mariscal Canyon	BBNP	25'+	?	47
56.	Shoot T-2 Cave	Bullis Gap	200'	3'	48
57.	Dead Scorpion Cave	Bullis Gap	200'	5'	48
58.	Wetback Cave House	Bullis Gap	25'	15'	50

Brewster County Leads and Rumors 51

#### PECOS COUNTY

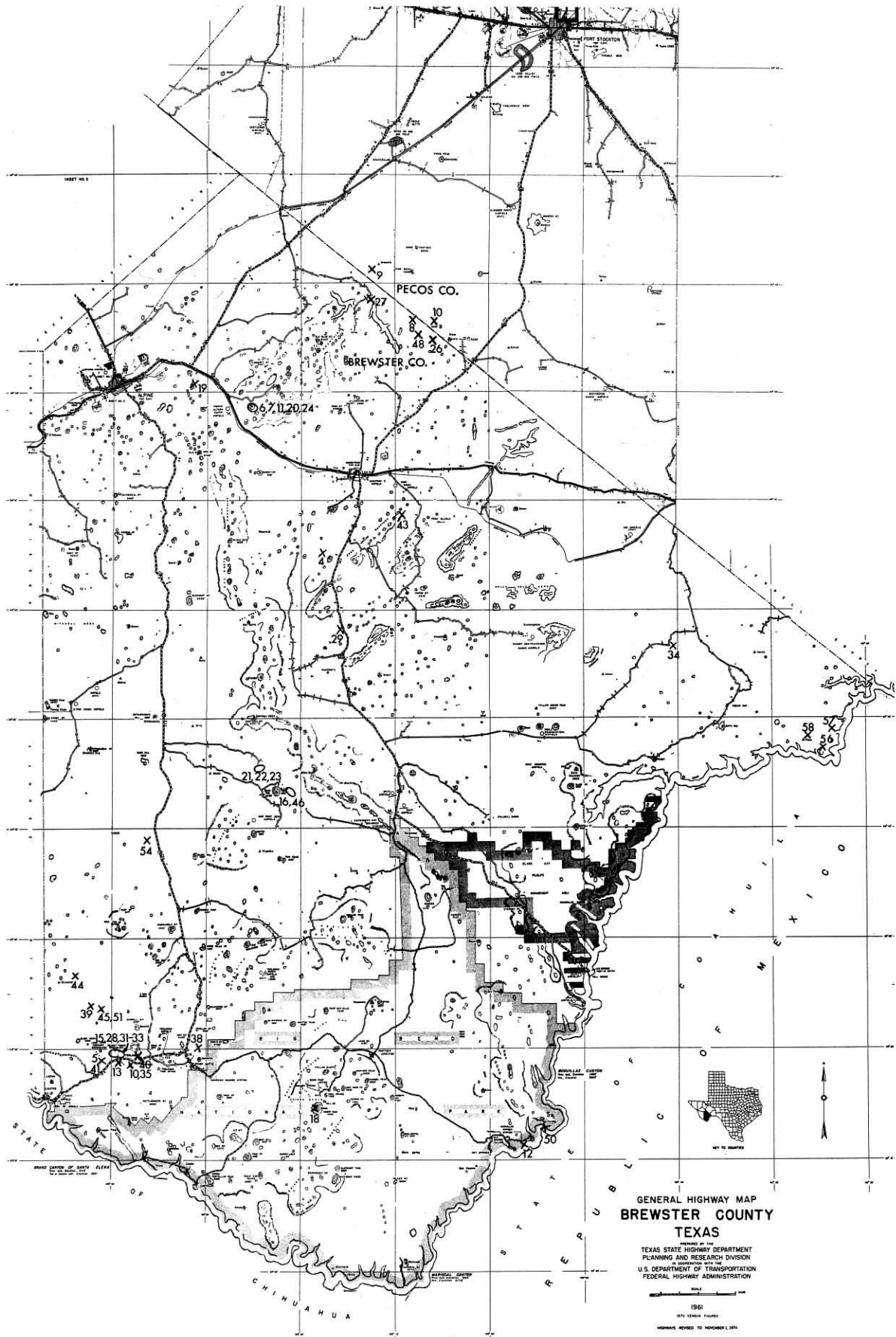
9.	Cave Mesa Cave	Cave Mesa	25'+	?	55
10.	Lichnovsky's Cave	Glass Mtns.	65'	54'	55

#### NOTES:

1. Javelina Hole, sometimes reported as a cave on the Apple Ranch, is a actually a shelter.
2. Cavers are urged **STRONGLY** not to attempt visiting Swallow Sinkhole or any of the caves on the Apple Ranch as these are considered **CLOSED**. Please cooperate with us and the landowners concerning this.
3. \* signifies that an accurate location is not known and is not marked on the location map.
4. New editorial policy dictates that the TSS will not publish on "caves" classified as shelters. The TSS will concentrate on true caves (according to its definition of caves as being more than 25' long or more than 15' deep with the entrance narrower than its length or depth) and concerning itself only with those shelters which are frequently reported as caves.

#### ALTERNATE NAMES

Barditch Drop--Side of the Road Sink	Out To Lunch Cave--O. T. L. Cave
Bee Cave Canyon Cave--Bee Cave	Rock Pillar Cave--Sunny Glen Canyon Cave #1
Beside the Road Cave--Side of the Road Sink	Sand Cave--Boquillas Canyon Cave
Bird Shit Pit--Swallow Sinkhole	Sand Dune Cave--Boquillas Canyon Cave
Chandler Cave--Rock Cave	Side of the Raod Sinkhole--Side of the Road Sink
Colquitt-Tigner Mine--Waldron Mine Cave	Tanque Caballo Cave--Barbara's Cave
Comanche Cave--Sunny Glen Canyon Cave #1	Terlingua Cave--Histoplasmosis Cave
Crystal Sink--Magill's Crystal Sinkhole	Terlingua Cave--Side of the Road Sink
Indian Cave on Comanche Mountain--	Treasure Cave--Mt. Emory Cave
Sunny Glen Canyon Cave #1	Waldron Cave--Terlingua Sinkhole
Lajitas Cave--Side of the Road Sink	Waldron Cave--Waldron Mine Cave
Mariscal Mountain Cave--Guano Cave	Waldron Sink--Terlingua Sinkhole





BIG MIDDEN SHELTER

Brewster County #1

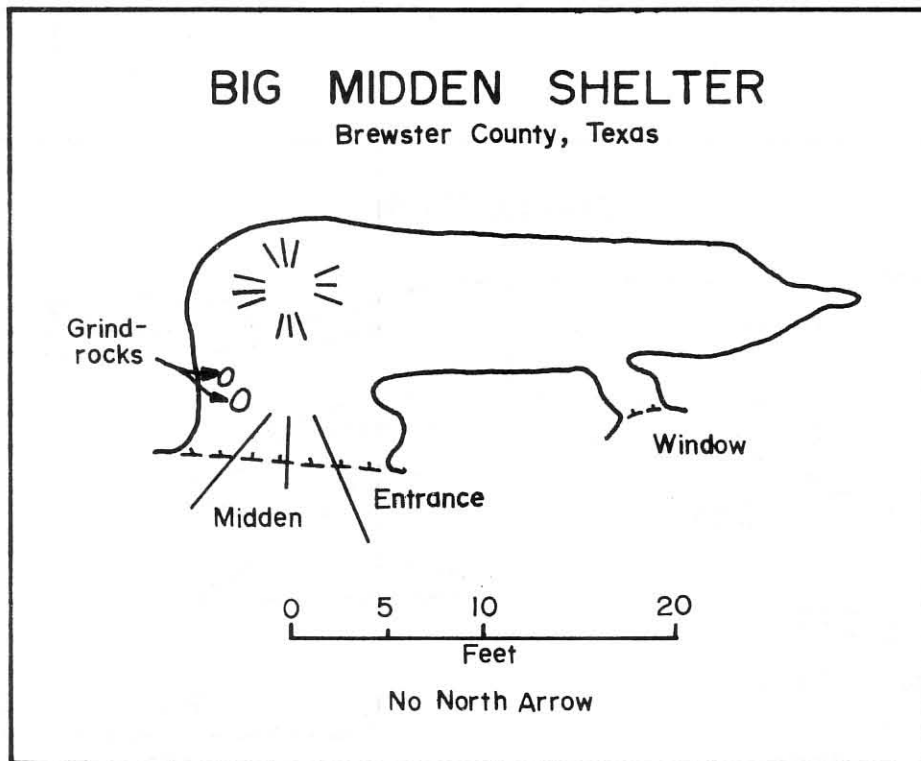
Owner: Bud Roark's grandfather

Description: "A 35-foot shelter located on the southeast side of an isolated mesa four miles from the Bud Roark home. The entrance is 12' across and the cave is 15' in depth. In the entrance was found two grindstones, polished by use and various pieces of worked flint. 100 yards downhill from the cave was another smaller midden in addition to the one located at the cave entrance." (Estes, 1962). The cave is about 35' long and has a window on the right hand side.

History: Midden site indicates occupation by Indians. It was explored on March 31, 1962 by James Estes, Jack Estes, and Tom Meador, and a sketch map was made.

Bibliography: Estes, James. 1962. Reagan Canyon Shelters. Texas Caver, 7(4): 49-50.

Ref: TSS Files  
James Estes



BOX CANYON CAVE

Brewster County # 2

Terlingua-Chisos Mountains Quadrangle

Owner: U.S. Government

Description: A shallow cave, 40' deep, but with an imposing entrance about 25' high and 20' wide. It is located on the face of a bluff in a box canyon.

Ref: Bob Hudson

C.F. COX CAVE

Brewster County # 3

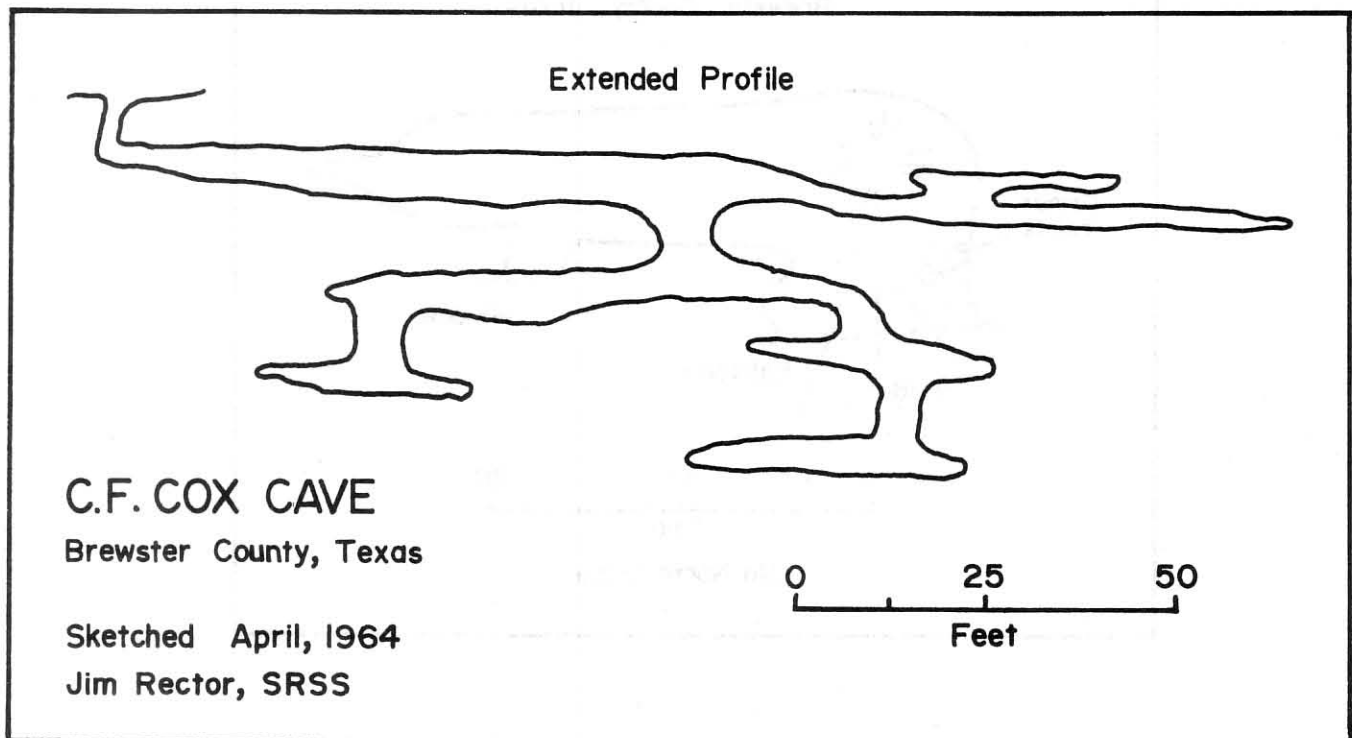
Marathon 15' Quadrangle

Owner: C. F. Cox

Description: A fissure cave. The entrance is in solid rock on top of a hill. The cave is very dry and dusty. Short climbable drops connect various levels of the cave. Total depth is 40' and length is about 250'.

History: The cave was first explored by SRSS in October, 1963. A sketch map was drawn by Jim Rector in April, 1964.

Ref: SRSS



CLIFFORD'S Qal CAVE

Brewster County # 4

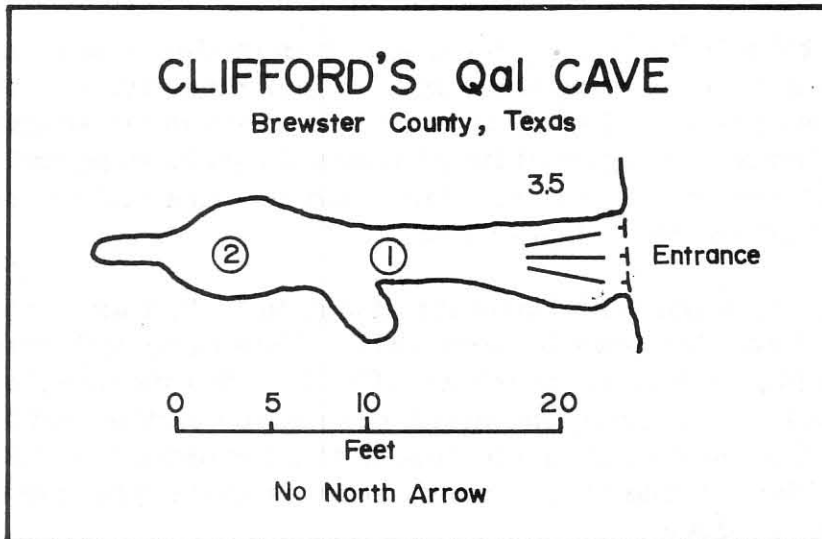
Monument Spring 15' Quadrangle

Owner: Bourland Ranch (?)

Description: The entrance to the cave is 3.5' high and about 4' wide. A 1' high passage leads about 15' into an enlarged section of the passage about 5' wide and 2' high. From here the passage extends 8', narrows to 2', extends an additional 5' and ends. The cave is formed entirely in Quaternary alluvium.

History: The cave was discovered, explored, and mapped by Mike Clifford and Bud Frank on July 3, 1963.

Ref: TSS Files



CONTRATIRO CAVE

Brewster County # 5

Terlingua-Chisos Mountains Quadrangle

Owner: Esperado Mining Company

Description: Open caves were encountered in the mine workings off of the Contratiro Winze and No. 11 shaft. They are irregular shaped caves formed along bedding planes. Beginning at the 135' level, the cave drops 25' to the 160' level. The passages are about 20' wide and up to 100' long. On the 210' level a cavern is indicated in the roof of the mine tunnel but no size is indicated or described. The Contratiro workings are located in the Mariposa Mine which extends under California Hill.

Geology: The caves are formed in the upper beds of Devil's River Limestone along a northeast trending fracture. They were filled or partly filled with deposits of clay, calcite, and cinnabar ore.

Bibliography: Yates, R.G., and G.A. Thompson. 1959. Geology and quick-silver deposits of the Terlingua District-Texas. Geol. Surv. Prof. Pap., 312, p. 93.

Ref: TSS Files

#### DOUGHNUT MOUNTAIN CAVE

Brewster County # 6

Altuda 15' Quadrangle

Owner: Nagley Ranch

Description: A 25' climbable drop from a 5' in diameter hole on a mountain slope leads into a passage going two ways. In one direction it leads to a 50' drop requiring equipment. This drop ends in a clay and breakdown plug. The other direction leads to a high-ceilinged area with stalactites and a drop in the floor leading into another room, which also contains stalactites. The total length is about 250' and total depth about 70'.

History: This cave, along with Doughnut Mountain Sink, was first explored by Grainger Hunt and Joe Scott in early 1962. They were both visited in March, 1964 by Joe Compton and other members of SRSS. At this time, a map was made of both caves. However, the notes were never plotted and a description never written. The personnel on the second trip reported that Mrs. Nagley had installed ladders in one of the caves and was in the process of mining the formations from the cave.

Ref: Grainger Hunt  
Carl Kunath

#### DOUGHNUT MOUNTAIN SINK

Brewster County # 7

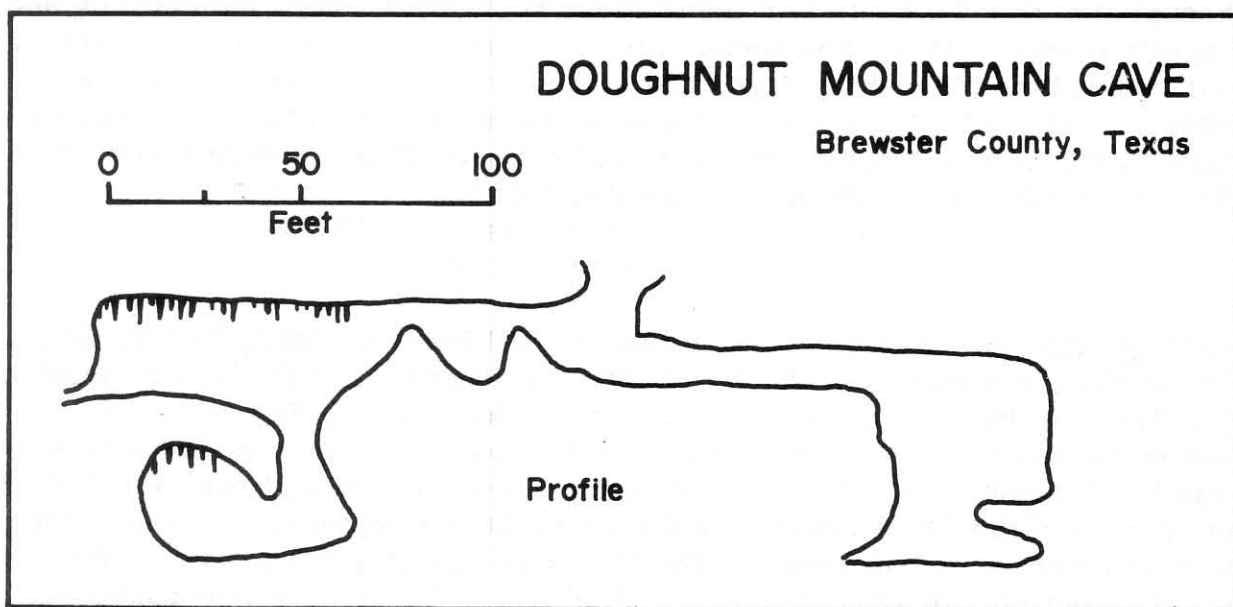
Altuda 15' Quadrangle

Owner: Nagley Ranch

Description: This is a 70' deep pit about 75' from Doughnut Mountain Cave. It once had passages leading off from the bottom but they are now filled with clay and breakdown. There is evidence that the two caves were once connected.

History: See Doughnut Mountain Cave.

Ref: Grainger Hunt



400 FOOT CAVE (MARATHON CAVE,  
MARSHMALLOW CAVE)

Brewster County # 8

Hess Canyon 15' Quadrangle

Owner: Carl Apple

Description: The entrance is a near vertical 75' drop through a fissure running NNE. The first room had a sand and guano floor sloping SE. The ceiling sloped the same way and had a few cave swallows and nests. A passage leads NW into a fairly large room with some pretty, dry formations. At the bottom of the slope the floor dropped sharply 65' over flowstone to a large room with many formations. Back under the steep drop we found a very pretty room which we promptly named the "Organ Room". The large room had many passages leading off. We looked into a couple and mapped down the largest one. This led us over a 30' drop into another large room. With the 400' goal in mind we took a passage leading down. This passage led generally NNE and we began to notice much evidence of faulting. The main passage cut sharply to the left through a low hole into a very pretty room with a wall of formations which reminded me of marshmallows warmed over a fire and thrown against the wall. In the past the cave has been called "Marshmallow Cave", maybe this is where it originated. In a small room to the south we found many helictites. There was much passage up and to the SW but again we were shooting for 400' so we mapped a passage leading down. After going through some tortuous faulted passages we broke through a hole and dropped 15' to the lowest point we located in the cave, 300'. Much to our surprise this point fell almost directly below the entrance and along the same fault. Continuing

through the cave we came to a tremendous room with a very high ceiling and a pretty bridge. Above and around this room there was so much cave that we just mapped the biggest passages and sighed at the rest. To the north we found a room with pretty gypsum flowers and another we named "Paris Sidewalk Cafe", reminiscent of the room of the same name in Cottonwood Cave. Only one small pool of standing water was found.

Elbert Bassham (TPSS)

March 3, 1967

History: The cave was explored in 1958 by Bill Russell, Mills Tandy, Bill Cronenwett, and others of the UT Grotto. In February, 1965, Elbert Bassham, Bill Terrell, Bob Schroeder, Frank Lichnovsky, and W. Friesen of the TPSS visited the cave. Much exploration was done and the cave was partially surveyed with about 2000' of passage going to a depth of 300'. Roger Bartholomew and others of the San Antonio Grotto (Alamo Area Chapter) have visited the cave and done some surveying. The last information set the depth of the cave at -312', but did not give the length. The map is apparently unavailable and probably incomplete. Bassham places the cave in Pecos County, but Bartholomew and Russell place it in Brewster. An aerial photo by Mills Tandy seems to indicate Brewster County also. The owner does not like people on his ranch and has repeatedly denied permission to explore. For this reason, few trips have been made, resulting in a lack of information. Cavers are urged NOT to try and visit this cave or ranch, and respect the owners wishes.

Biology: A small collection of invertebrates has been made in the cave by Robert C. Schroeder. This included a spider, camel crickets, and a beetle. The spider is Eperigone antraea (Crosby), a frequent troglophile in caves in West Texas and eastern New Mexico. Four species of camel cricket have been identified from this cave. These are Ceuthophilus (Ceuthophilus) sp., C. (C.) cf. isletae Hubbell, C. (Geotettix) carlsbadensis Caudell, and C. (G.) ?polingi Hubbell. The first species is apparently an undescribed species, while the last is represented only by juveniles and so cannot be identified to species with assurance. The beetle has been identified as a species of Rhadine and is probably a troglophile. The cave swallow, Petrochelidon fulva pallida Nelson, has also been reported as nesting in this cave. The cave is inhabited by a colony of the Mexican brown bat, Myotis velifer incautus (Allen).

Geology: 400 Foot Cave is a fissure cave located along a normal fault zone in the Gilliam member of the Capitan formation of Permian age. The main passages of the cave seem to follow the northwest trend of the fault system in the area. The other passages follow what may be fracture and joint patterns caused by the faulting. The age of the faulting is estimated to be of Pliocene age. The Gilliam member in this area of the Glass Mountains is in unfossiliferous massive dolomite estimated to be 4300 feet in thickness.

Bill Terrell

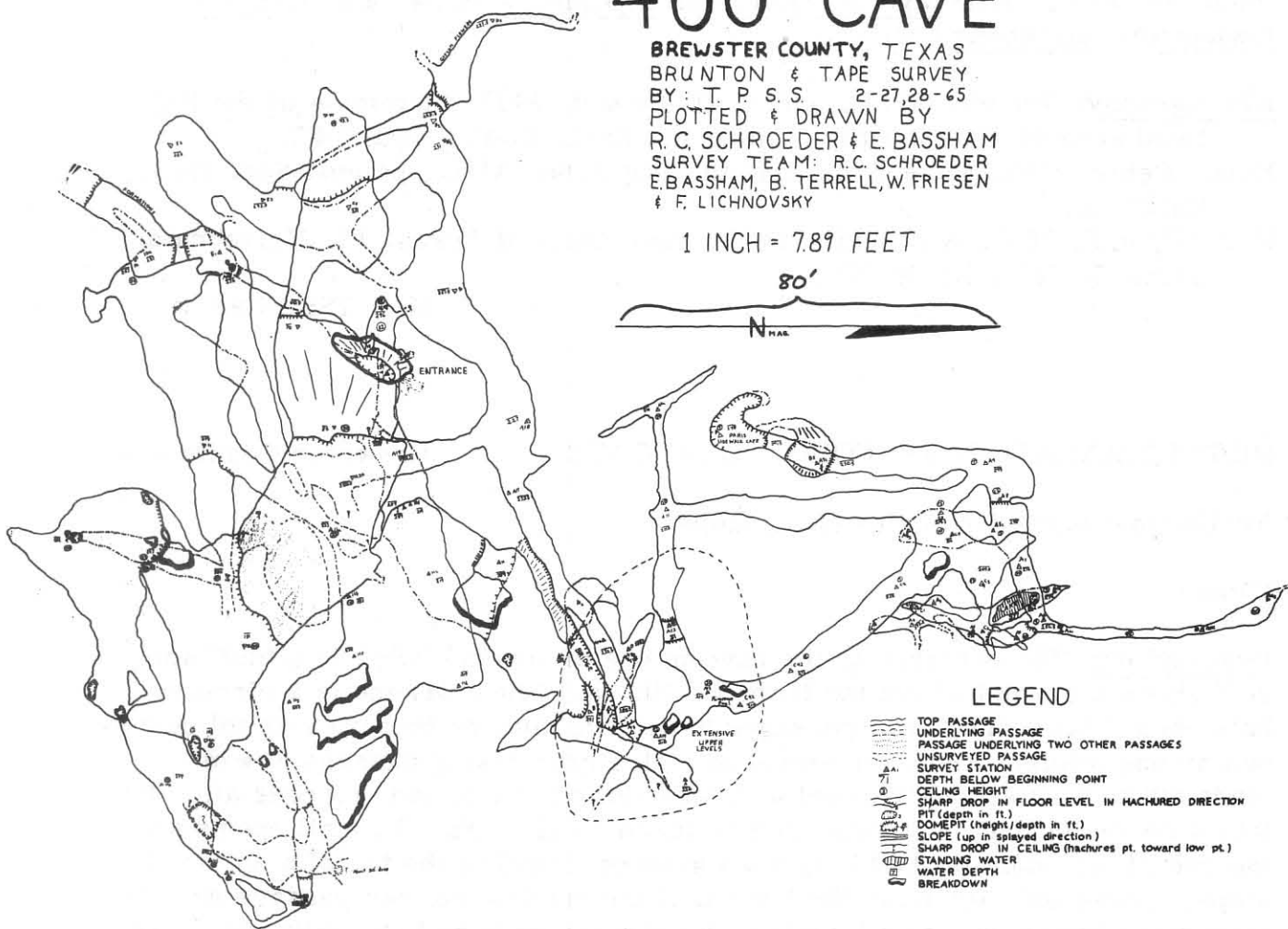
Bibliography: Reddell, J.R. 1965. A checklist of the cave fauna of Texas. I. The Invertebrata (exclusive of Insecta). Texas J. Sci., 17:143-187.  
 ---. 1966. A checklist of the cave fauna of Texas. II. Insecta. Texas J. Sci., 18: 25-56.  
 ---. 1967. A checklist of the cave fauna of Texas. III. Vertebrata. Texas J. Sci., 19:184-226.  
 Widener, D.L. n.d. Comal and Brewster Counties. Texas Cave Survey, 2(1):59-66.

Ref: TSS Files  
 Elbert Bassham  
 Roger Bartholomew

# 400' CAVE

BREWSTER COUNTY, TEXAS  
 BRUNTON & TAPE SURVEY  
 BY: T. P. S. S. 2-27,28-65  
 PLOTTED & DRAWN BY  
 R. C. SCHROEDER & E. BASSHAM  
 SURVEY TEAM: R. C. SCHROEDER  
 E. BASSHAM, B. TERRELL, W. FRIESEN  
 & F. LICHOVSKY

1 INCH = 789 FEET



## LEGEND

- TOP PASSAGE
- UNDERLYING PASSAGE
- PASSAGE UNDERLYING TWO OTHER PASSAGES
- UNSURVEYED PASSAGE
- SURVEY STATION
- DEPTH BELOW BEGINNING POINT
- CEILING HEIGHT
- SHARP DROP IN FLOOR LEVEL IN HATCHED DIRECTION
- PIT (depth in ft.)
- DOMEPIT (height/depth in ft.)
- SLOPE (up in splayed direction)
- SHARP DROP IN CEILING (hachures pt. toward low pt.)
- STANDING WATER
- WATER DEPTH
- BREAKDOWN

GUANO CAVE (MARISCAL MOUNTAIN CAVE)

Brewster County # 9

Terlingua-Chisos Mountains Quadrangle

Owner: U.S. Government

Description: The entrance is at an elevation of 2800' on the side of Mariscal Mountain (elevation 3940'). It consists of a passage 150' long with two small connecting chambers. There is a colony of bats in the cave. It is supposedly near two other similar caves.

History: The cave is reported to have been mined for guano at one time. This commercial venture failed. Zoologists have investigated the bat colony.

Biology: The bat colony consists primarily of the Mexican freetail bat, Tadarida brasiliensis mexicana (Saussure). Other species of bat reported from the cave include Myotis thysanodes thysanodes Miller and Plecotus townsendii pallescens (Miller).

Bibliography: Borell, A. E., and M. D. Bryant. 1942. Mammals of the Big Bend area of Texas. Univ. California Publ. Zool., 48(1):1-62.

Koch, Peter. 1948. Cave-hunting in the Big Bend. Natl. Speleol. Soc. Bull., 10:112-115.

Reddell, J. R. 1967. A checklist of the cave fauna of Texas. III. Vertebrata. Texas J. Sci., 19:184-226.

Ref: TSS Files

HISTOPLASMOSIS CAVE (TERLINGUA CAVE)

Brewster County # 10

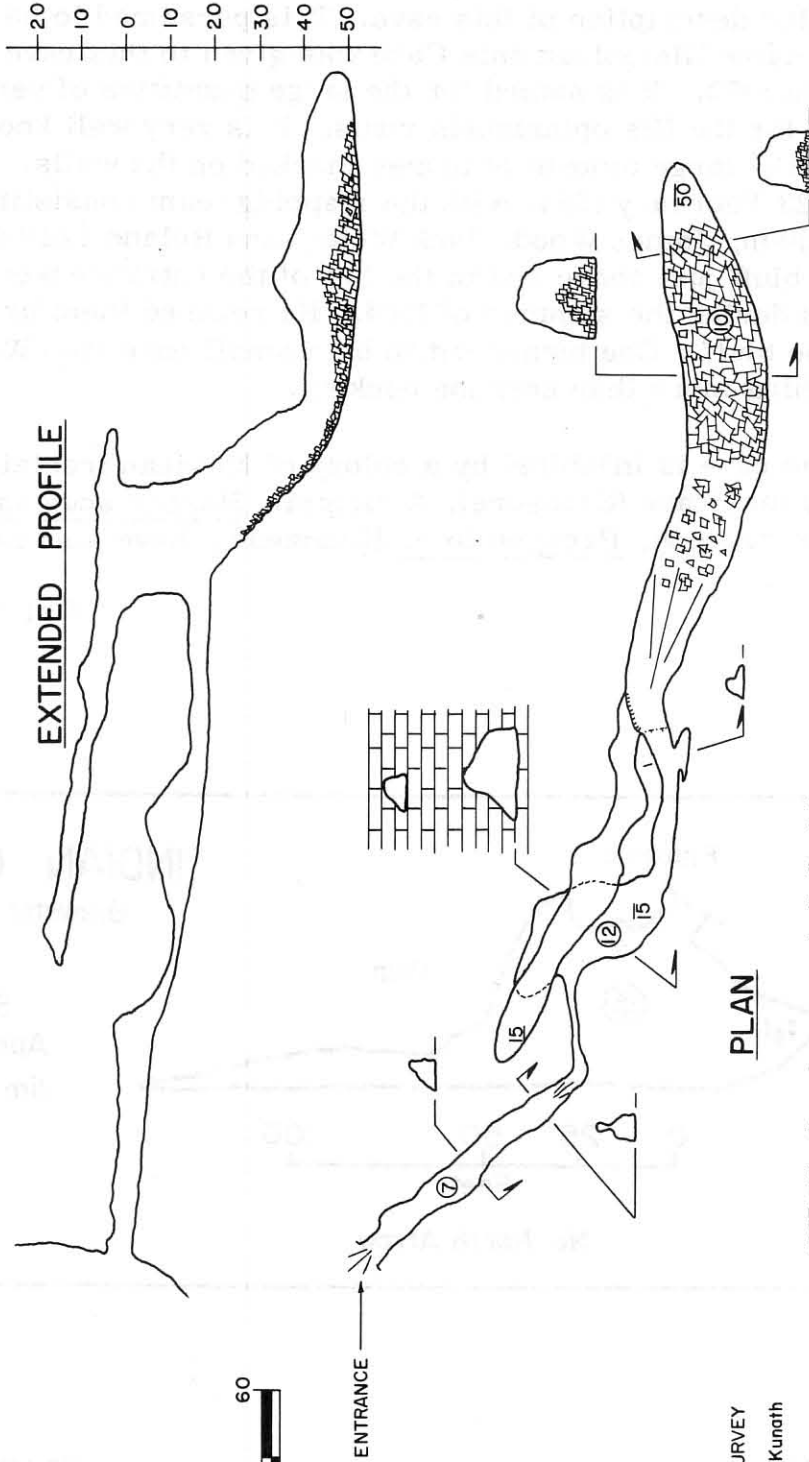
Terlingua-Chisos Mountains Quadrangle

Owner:

Description: The entrance to the cave is one of several holes in a bluff some 200' above a creek bed not far from Terlingua. The entrance is a circular hole about 5'x5'. The cave passages have developed on three levels following two strong joints. From the entrance a straight walking passage 5' wide leads 60' to a small dusty crawl which bends to the left and emerges after 10' into a room 50' long, 15' wide, and as much as 12' high. A small opening at the end of the room leads 40' as a walk-stoop-crawl to the top of a 30' sand slope. About 30' high from the bottom of the sand slope, the passage goes 60' over much breakdown as a 10' wide, 20' high passage and abruptly ends. An upper level may be reached from the top of the sand slope. It is mostly a 10' wide, 6' high passage about 20' long. The elevation of the end of this passage is about 15' above the entrance. The cave is very dry and dusty and can best be explored by small groups of cavers moving slowly in order not to stir up the dust.

# HISTOPLASMOSIS CAVE

BREWSTER COUNTY, TEXAS



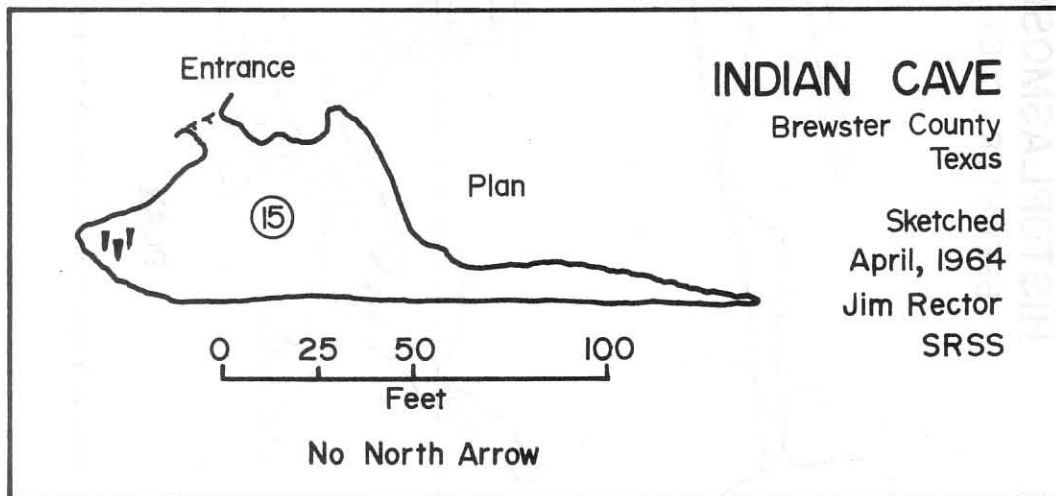
NOTE: Entire floor of cave covered with fine dust.

COMPASS & TAPE SURVEY  
 S.R.S.S. 2-23-64  
 DRAFTED BY Carl Kunath  
 Revised 5-68

History: Harry Miles of SRSS explored a cave near Terlingua which very closely fits the description of this cave. It is presumed to be one and the same. The name Histoplasmosis Cave was given to this cave when the SRSS explored it in 1962. It is named for the large quantities of very fine dust present and not for the Histoplasmosis virus. It is very well known locally as indicated by the large amount of names marked on the walls. A map was made by SRSS on 23 February 1964, with the mapping team consisting of Carl Kunath, Elbert Bassham, James Wood, Jack White, and Roland Collins. The small holes in the bluff just above and to the left of the entrance were explored by James Wood during the summer of 1964. He reached them by rappelling from the top of the bluff. One turned out to be a small cave (see Wood Cave) and the rest nothing more than solution pockets.

Biology: The cave is inhabited by a colony of Mexican freetail bats, Tadarida brasiliensis mexicana (Saussure). A ringtail, Bassariscus astutus (Lichtenstein), and a raccoon, Procyon lotor (Linnaeus), have also been observed in the cave.

Ref: Carl Kunath



INDIAN CAVE

Brewster County # 11

Altuda 15' Quadrangle

Owner: Nagley Ranch

Description: A walk-in entrance leads a few feet to a 15' high circular room. To the right the cave ends after 50'. There are some wet stalactites up to 2'

long in this area. To the left the passage pinches out after 125'. There are some gypsum crystals reported on the left wall of this passage.

History: The cave was explored by Jim Rector, Grainger Hunt, and other members of SRSS in March, 1963. It was sketch-mapped in April, 1964 by Jim Rector.

Ref: SRSS  
Jim Rector

### JOHNSON'S CAVE

Brewster County #12

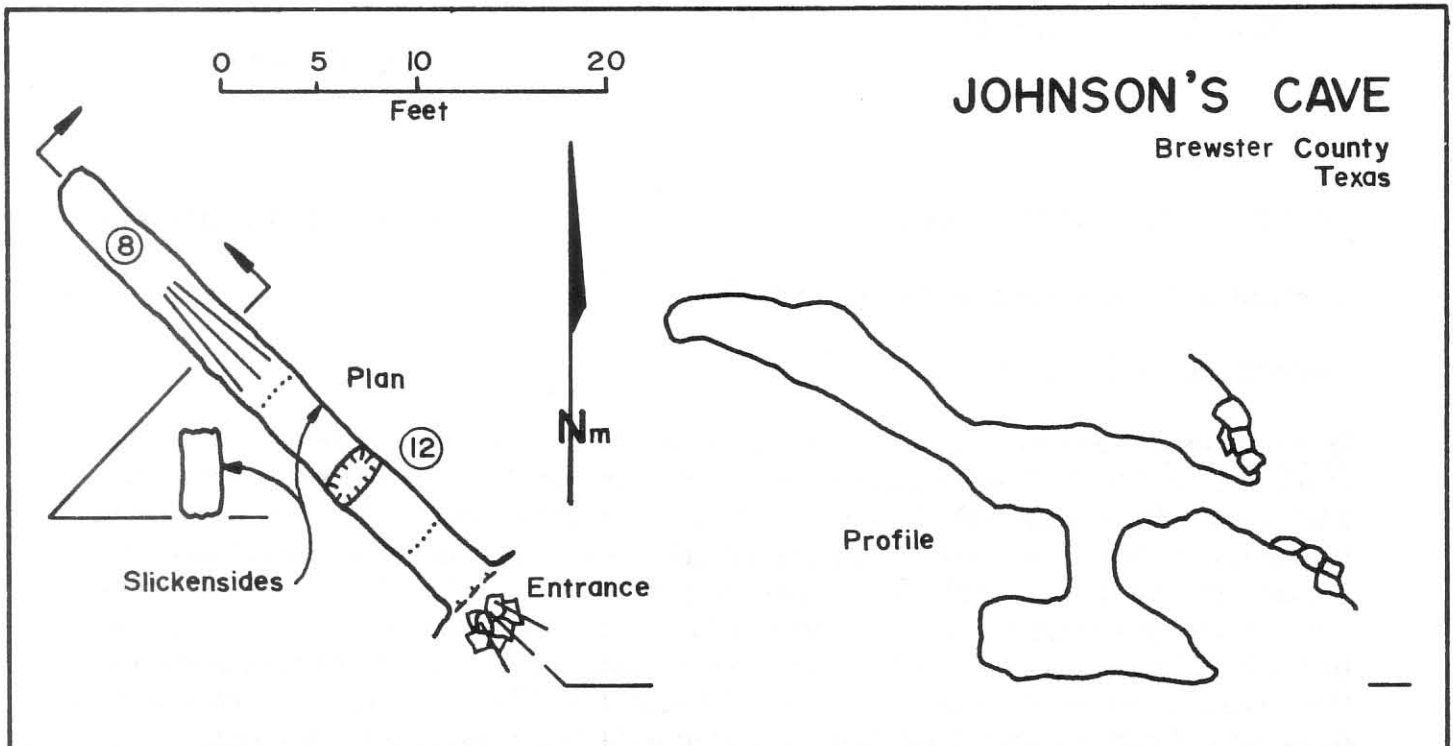
Terlingua-Chisos Mountains Quadrangle

Owner: U.S. Government

Description: The cave is a fissure cave along a fault with slickensides shown on at least one wall. The total depth is 10' and approximate length 30'. It is 3' wide throughout. The roof and ceiling are composed of breccia and unconsolidated rock along the fault. It strikes NW-SE.

History: It was first reported by Steve Smith and Bill Bourbon in the spring of 1962 and explored by them and others on April 20, 1962.

Ref: TSS Files



SIDE OF THE ROAD SINK (LAJITAS CAVE) Brewster County #13  
(BARDITCH DROP)  
(TERLINGUA CAVE)  
(SIDE OF THE ROAD SINKHOLE)  
(BESIDE THE ROAD CAVE)

Terlingua-Chisos Mountains Quadrangle

Owner: State of Texas

Description: This is a pit with an entrance measuring 8'x12' and dropping 80' to a floor of loose rocks. It is roughly circular and as much as 20' wide about halfway down. The last third of the cave is a steeply sloping, almost vertical passage about 6' in diameter. This cave is more of an enlarged fissure rather than a solutional cavity. Traces of cinnabar have supposedly been found in the cave. Old boards and timbers cover the entrance.

History: The cave was broken into by Bill Dunnington of Terlingua while he was road grading sometime around the early 1940's. It was entered by local people (probably prospecting for cinnabar) who described it to Peter Koch when he visited the area in 1946. It has since been explored by Bud Frank (UTSS, Austin) who made a map of it. Another visit was in 1961 by Harry Miles, Bill Bell, T.R. Evans, and Tom White, all from the UTSS, Austin. In April, 1964 it was explored by members of the SRSS, at which time it was sketched by Carl Kunath. On June 9, 1974, it was visited by Pat Asnes, Craig Bittinger, Ronnie Fieseler, and Susan Fieseler. The cave was remapped on this trip.

Bibliography: Koch, Peter. 1948. Cave-hunting in the Big Bend. Natl. Speleol. Soc. Bull. 10:112-115.

Ref: TSS Files

LITTLE "38" MINE CAVE Brewster County #15

Terlingua-Chisos Mountains Quadrangle

Owner: Glenn Pepper

Description: There are several entrances to the mine/cave. One is a walk-in leading to a 50' shaft which connects to the first level. The primary shaft is 250' deep with levels going off every 50'. The first four levels are connected to the northeast by a fissure system requiring chimneying and rappelling. The southwest end of the -200' level continues into some branching fissures. The -250' level is entered via the main shaft. At the bottom and a short distance to the left is a trap door, with a breakdown slope underneath leading down to the lowest level of the cave at -375'. The mineshafts have intersected a series of natural fissures which contain clay deposits laden with cinnabar ore. At

# SIDE OF THE ROAD SINK

Brewster County, Texas

Surveyed 9 June 1974

Pat Asnes

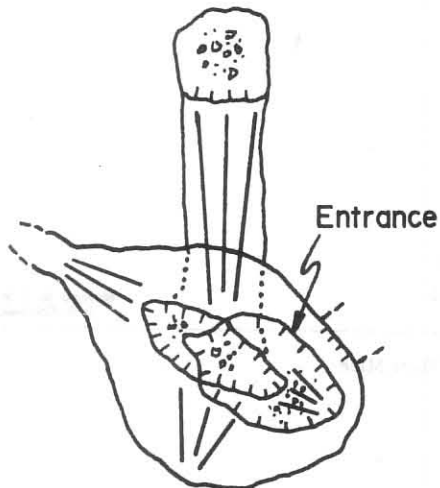
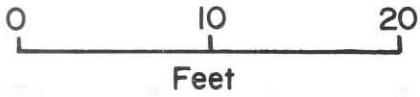
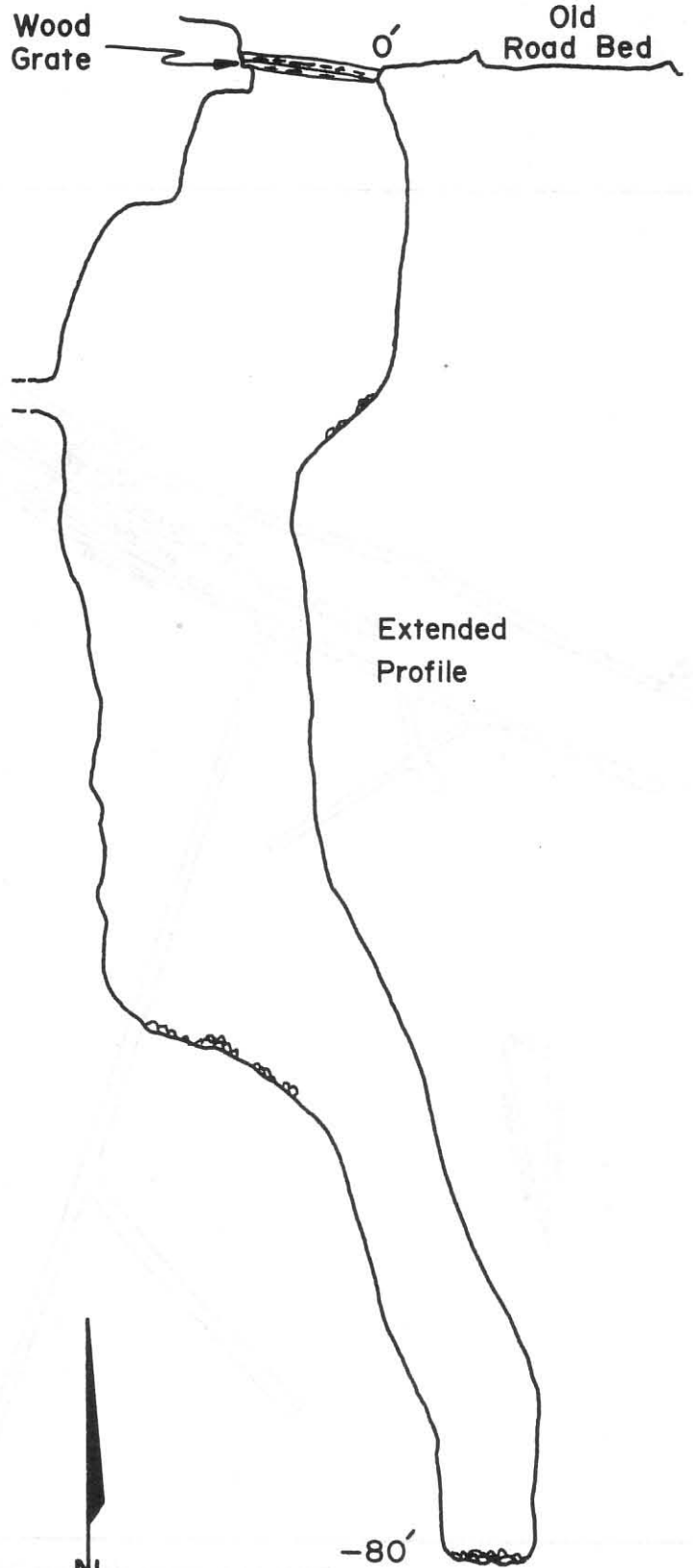
Craig Bittinger

Ronnie Fieseler

Susan Fieseler

Drafted August, 1974

Ronnie Fieseler



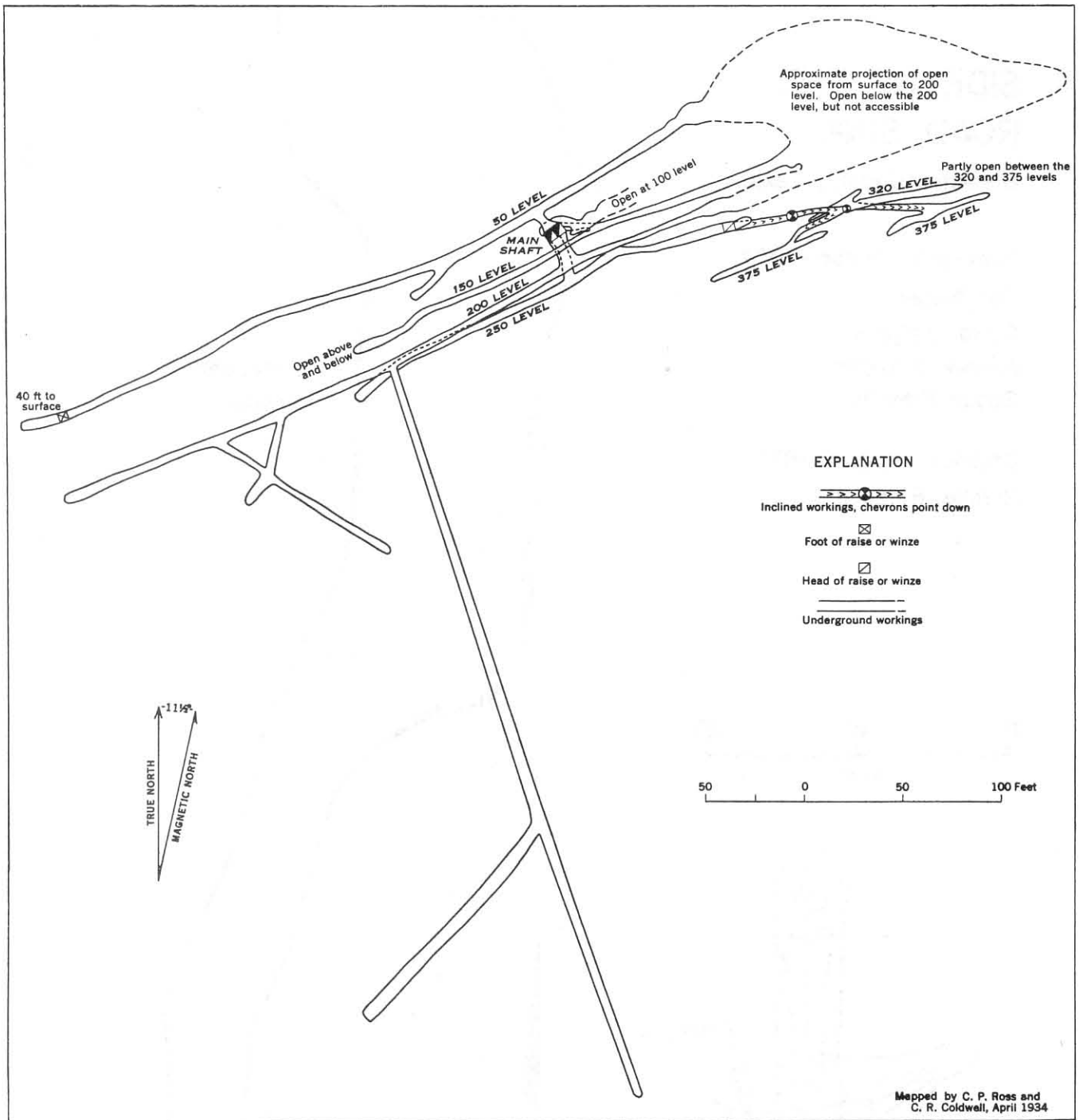


FIGURE 24.—Sketch map of the Little Thirty-Eight Mine.

times the walls are 15' apart but usually average only a few feet and are roughly circular. The upper levels in the east part of the mine contain the largest passages which may be scores of feet long. In the northwest part of the mine there is reportedly deposits of calcite and small stalactites remaining relatively undamaged by the mining. In the rest of the mine most of the rubble, fill, and calcite has been removed by mining activities. There are many unstable old ladders in the cave as well as old ore-cart tracks. Persons visiting the mine have reported raising great clouds of dust while moving through the passages. Any visits should proceed with the utmost caution.

History: It is not known exactly when the mine was opened, but it was operational from 1900-1910 and ran by the Marfa & Mariposa Mining Company. It was owned and operated by Waldron Quicksilver Properties Incorporated from 1926-1928. It was visited and mapped by C. P. Ross and C. R. Coldwell in April, 1934. All operations had ceased by 1947. Elbert Bassham and others of the TPSS visited the cave on January 21, 1965.

Geology: The passages are formed principally along a natural fissure which was filled with deposits of clay, calcite, and cinnabar ore. It is located in the Devil's River limestone. Trend is N65°E and dip is 80°SE.

Paleontology: Bones of unidentified animals were found in the fill. Thought to be Pliocene or Pleistocene.

Bibliography: Bassham, Elbert. 1965. Little "38". Texas Caver, 10(4):68. Ross, C. P., and C. R. Coldwell. 1959. Geology and quicksilver deposits of the Terlingua District-Texas. Geol. Surv. Prof. Pap., 312, p.97. (Map) Yates, R. G., and G. A. Thompson. Ibid, pp. 95, 96.

Ref: Elbert Bassham

MAGILL'S CRYSTAL SINKHOLE (CRYSTAL SINK) Brewster County #16

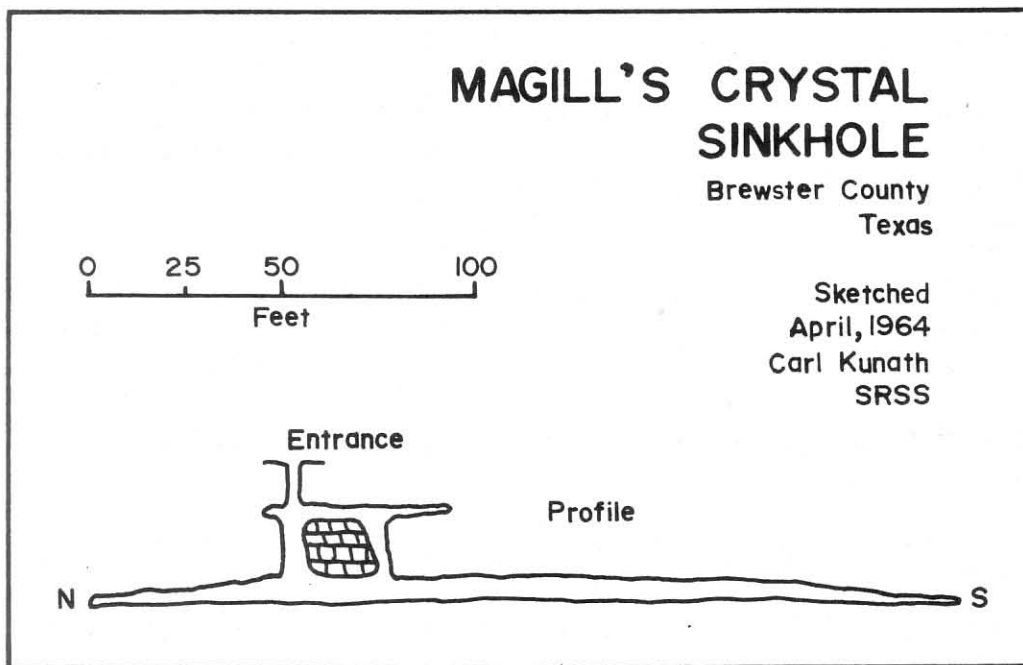
Nine Point Mesa 15' Quadrangle

Owner: Great Western Land Development Inc.

Description: The entrance is a 4' in diameter sink dropping about 35'. A handline is advisable. The passage goes both directions at the bottom. To the south it leads 125' as a walking passage, and then lowers to a stoop before becoming a crawl and finally pinching out after an additional 50'. To the north it pinches out after about 50'. An upper level exists for about 50' in the south passage. Much of the cave is covered with rather large but dirty masses of gypsum crystals. The cave is very dry.

History: The cave was explored by SRSS in the spring of 1962. On the trip were Grainger Hunt, Carl Kunath, Ron Griffeth, and Nick Lucas. It was sketched by Carl Kunath in April, 1964.

Ref: Carl Kunath



MARISCAL CANYON CAVE

Brewster County #17

Terlingua-Chisos Mountains Quadrangle

Owner: U.S. Government

Description: The cave has four entrances, one of which is in the wall of the canyon about 900' above the Rio Grande. The other three are on the shelf above the wall. The three vertical entrances are about 30' deep and can be climbed. Total length is around 100'.

History: Explored by Bob Hudson (UTSS, Austin) in 1955.

Ref: Bob Hudson

## Terlingua-Chisos Mountains Quadrangle

Owner: U.S. Government

Description: The entrance is located at an elevation of 7100' making this cave the highest cave in Texas. Just past the 9' high entrance is a room about 12' long with a boulder covered floor. A few feet further two logs span the distance from the floor to a rock covered slope 10' above. The room at the top of these logs is the largest in the cave with a height of over 60'. The width is 10-20' but the floor area is small. Numerous ledges and high leads lead to the top of the room where a cliff-face skylight enables daylight to filter in. A careful climb up the next ledge and a traverse around loose boulders at the top leads one to a fissure that drops 30-40' to a talus covered boulder choke. Two holes lead downward as a continuation of the same fissure for another 100' or so, making the total drop one of the longest in Texas. One lead at the bottom led down another 15' and pinched out with some airflow noticed. Other small leads would require digging.

History: Local rumor has it that this cave is the hiding place of a treasure of silver. One bar of silver is reported to have been found in the cave several years ago. Peter Koch visited the cave in the late 1940's and wrote about it for NSS Bulletin 10 (1948). Pete Lindsley and Jack Jarvinen explored and finally bottomed the cave during Thanksgiving, 1968.

Biology: The long-nosed bat, Leptonycteris nivalis longala Stains, is a rare bat known from only a few localities. A small colony is present in this cave, however. Other bats recorded from this cave include the fringed brown bat, Myotis thysanodes thysanodes Miller, and Townsend's big-eared bat, Plecotus townsendii pallescens (Miller).

Geology: The cave is located in the Wasp Spring Flow Breccia interbedded with indurated tuff, rhyolitic lava, and locally massive conglomerate... topped with brown rhyolite. It is part of the South Rim Formation of the Big Bend Park Group.

Bibliography: Borell, A. E., and M. D. Bryant. 1942. Mammals of the Big Bend area of Texas. Univ. California Publ. Zool., 48(1):1-62.  
Koch, Peter. 1948. Cave-hunting in the Big Bend. Natl. Speleol. Soc. Bull., 10:112-115.  
Lindsley, Pete. 1968. Mt. Emory Cave. Texas Caver, 13(12):139-140.  
Maxwell, R. A. 1968. The Big Bend of the Rio Grande. Bur. Econ. Geol., Univ. Texas, Austin, Texas, Guidebook 7, p. 75, fig. 77, pl. II.  
Reddell, J. R. 1967. A checklist of the cave fauna of Texas. III. Vertebrata. Texas J. Sci., 19:184-226.

Ref: TSS Files  
Pete Lindsley

Alpine 15' Quadrangle

Owner: Miles Pierce

Description: The entrance is an oval slit 3'x4' which drops 8' to cave level. After 25' a side passage leads to the right and the main passage continues straight. The side passage leads 70' over breakdown as a 10-15' high passage to a small room 2-4' high and 30' long. The main passage continues past the fork another 30' to a small hole between the breakdown and the wall. By working down through the breakdown about 20' one may emerge in a small crawlway which bends to the left and opens up into a small room 5' wide, 20' long, and 3' high. At the back of this room a hole on the right drops 12' to a small walking passage which goes 15' and forks. To the right, after another 15', three choices are encountered. A squeeze to the right leads down to a small room which has a crawl leading out to the north. The second choice is straight ahead through a very tight squeeze. The third choice is straight up 6' through a small chimney. All three passages end up in the same room. For the first time the cave is in solid rock rather than the breakdown mentioned previously. This room is 60' below the entrance. A passage to the east leads a few feet to a room 15' wide, 20' long, and 2-5' high. The room is floored with breakdown and there are numerous crawls under the rocks. A passage to the left just as you enter this room leads to some crawls and chimneys. From this room a zig-zag passage with a steady downward trend leads 70' to a group of small rooms and the end of the cave in this area. This is a cave of much breakdown, cave coral, squeezing and crawling. There are no large formations and the cave is very dry. It is badly vandalized, especially in the first portions.

History: The cave is well known locally and has been visited for at least 20 years. It was discovered when a fence line was built near the cave. It was visited by Carl Kunath, Grainger Hunt, and James Smith in 1961. A collecting trip was made in June, 1963 by James Reddell and Bill Russell. It has been visited many times by the SRSS and the Paisano Grotto. The cave was mapped by members of the SRSS on October 26, 1963. It was remapped by members of the Paisano Grotto on March 7-9, 1971. This may be the same cave as the one referred to by many locals as "Old Hookie Cave".

Biology: The orb weaver spider, Araneus gemma McCook, was taken by Ruben M. Frank on September 15, 1962, from a web spun across the entrance to the cave. A collection of invertebrates was made in the cave on June 25, 1963, by James Reddell and Bill Russell. Since most of the cave is dry and generally without organic material, almost all of the specimens have been taken from the entrance area. Robert C. Schroeder has also made a small collection of invertebrates in the cave. Spiders taken from the cave include the common troglophile, Cicurina varians Gertsch and Mulaik, an accidental, Drassyllus texamans Chamberlin, and a troglaxene, Physocyclus enaulus Crosby. Ticks,

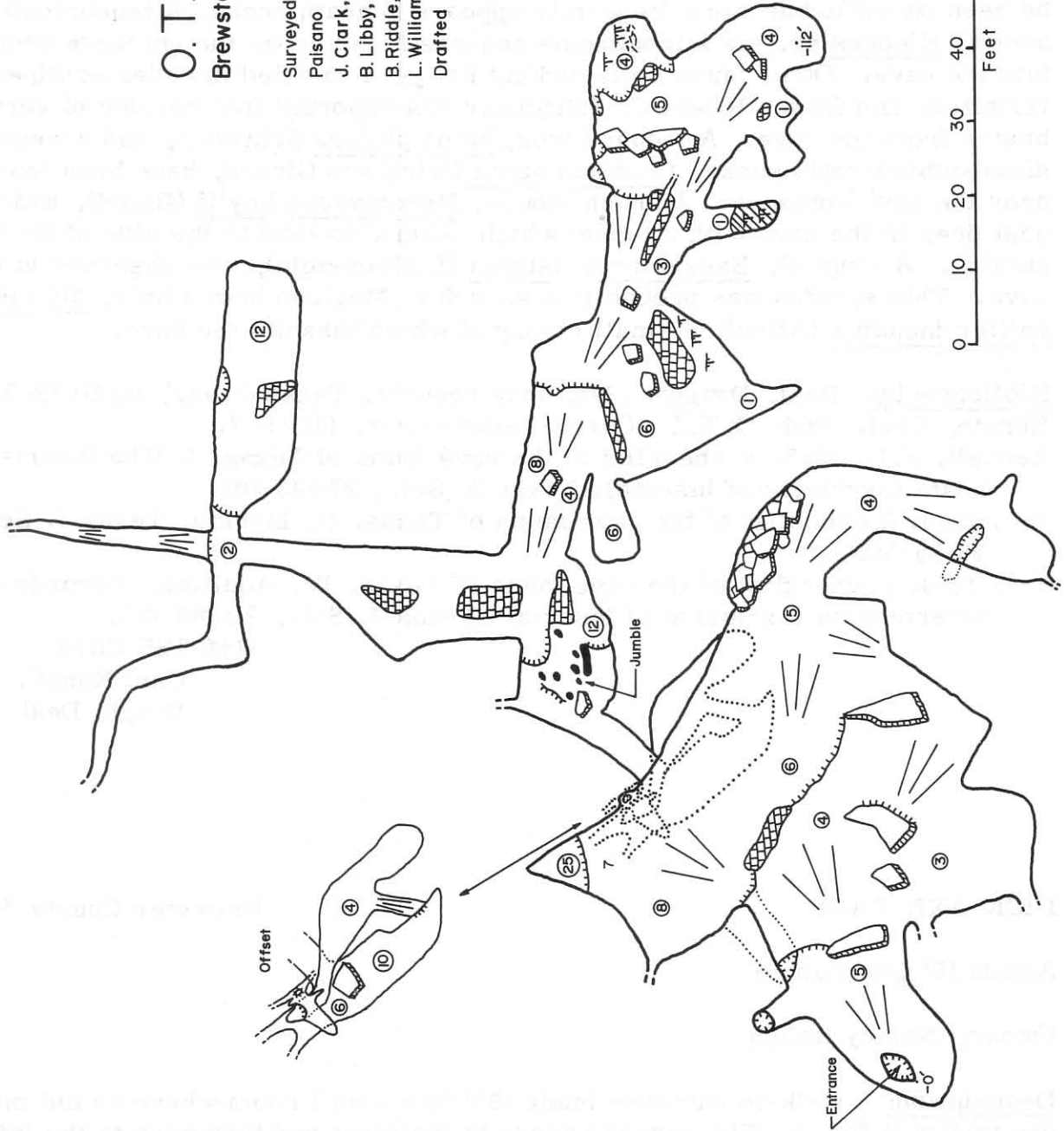
# O.T.L. CAVE

Brewster County, Texas

Surveyed 7-9 March 1971

Paisano Grotto, NSS  
J. Clark, D. Deal, S. Deal,  
B. Libby, M. Nelson, B. McKee  
B. Riddle, D. Russ, H. Stoner,  
L. Williams

Drafted by D. Deal, R. Fieseler



Ixodes conepati Cooley and Kohls, have also been taken from the cave. These are probably parasites of raccoons or other carnivores inhabiting or visiting the cave. Mites parasitic on the camel crickets have not yet been identified. The harvestman, Leiobunum sp. (probably townsendi Banks) is abundant in domes near the entrance. Roaches, Arenivaga tonkawa Heb., were taken from beneath rocks below the cave entrance. Two species of camel cricket, Ceuthophilus (Ceuthophilus) sp., and Ceuthophilus (Geotettix) carlsbadensis Caudell, have been recorded from the cave. Two species of ant were found in the entrance area. These have been identified as Aphaenogaster texana Emery and Liometopum apiculatum Mayr. A carabid beetle, Rhadine longiceps (Van Dyke), is a fairly abundant troglophile in the cave where it may occasionally be seen on walls but more frequently appears beneath rocks. A tenebrionid beetle, Eleodes sp., is a troglaxene and was found below the entrance drop into the cave. Other fauna collected but not yet identified includes centipedes, termites, and flies. Robert C. Schroeder has reported five species of vertebrates from the cave. A leopard frog, Rana pipiens Schreber, and a western diamondback rattlesnake, Crotalus atrox Baird and Girard, have been found near the cave entrance. A brush mouse, Peromyscus boylii (Baird), had a nest deep in the cave with a tunnel which seemed to lead to the side of the hill outside. A ringtail, Bassariscus astutus (Lichtenstein), was observed in the cave. This species was probably in search of Mexican brown bats, Myotis velifer incautus (Allen), a small colony of which inhabits the cave.

- Bibliography: Deal, Dwight. 1971. Trip reports. Texas Caver, 16(4): 79-80.  
Kunath, Carl. 1964. O. T. L. Cave. Texas Caver, 9(1): 6-7.  
Reddell, J.R. 1965. A checklist of the cave fauna of Texas. I. The Invertebrata (exclusive of Insecta). Texas J. Sci., 27:143-187.  
---. 1966. A checklist of the cave fauna of Texas. II. Insecta. Texas J. Sci., 28:25-56.  
---. 1970. A checklist of the cave fauna of Texas. IV. Additional records of Invertebrata (exclusive of Insecta). Texas J. Sci., 21:389-415.

Ref: TSS Files  
Carl Kunath  
Dwight Deal

PICK AXE CAVE

Brewster County # 20

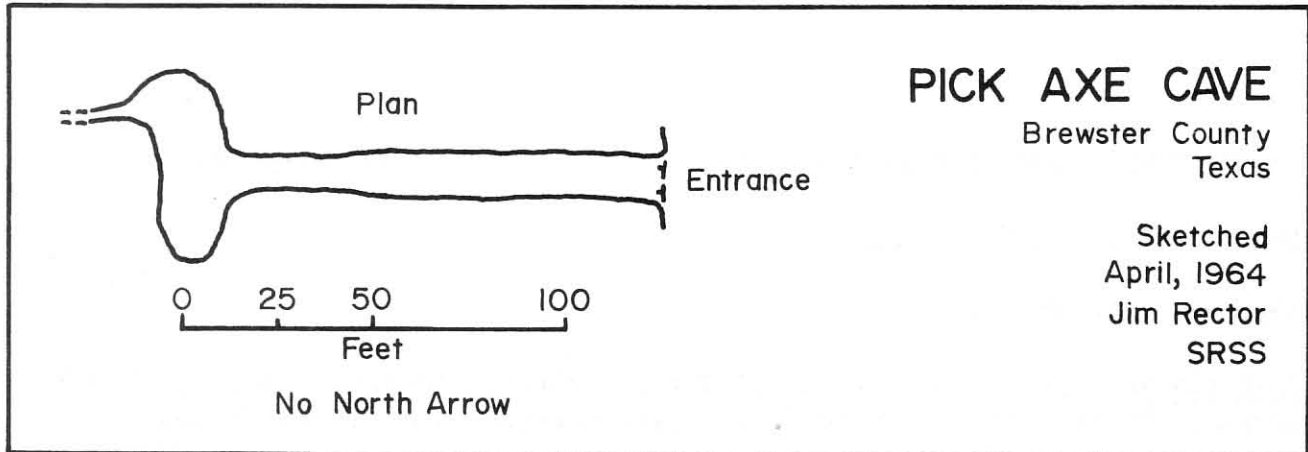
Altuda 15' Quadrangle

Owner: Nagley Ranch

Description: A walk-in entrance leads 125' to a small room where an old miners pick was found. The passage bends to the right and then back to the left, leading to a hole to small to admit passage.

History: The cave was explored by Jim Rector and others of the SRSS in March, 1963. A sketch map was drawn by Jim Rector in April, 1964.

Ref: SRSS  
Jim Rector



POTHOLE CANYON CAVE NO. 1

Brewster County #21

Santiago Peak 15' Quadrangle

Owner: A. M. Potter

Description: The entrance is a large wedge-shaped hole 25' high and 15' wide about 100' above the floor of Pothole Canyon. The cave continues back in a straight line for about 100' before pinching off in fill and breakdown. There is a skylight about 50' from the entrance. Much of this passage is 30' high and generally 20' wide.

History: It was explored by SRSS in February, 1964.

Ref: Carl Kunath

POTHOLE CANYON CAVE NO. 2

Brewster County #22

Santiago Peak 15' Quadrangle

Owner: A. M. Potter

Description: A large hole about 200' from Pothole Canyon Cave No. 1 and is

about 50' above the floor of the canyon. A small hole at the back opens into a 2'x2' dirt and thorn-floored crawl which leads 100' to a difficult "S" curve and becomes too small after another 10'.

History: It was explored by SRSS in February, 1964.

Ref: Carl Kunath

POTHOLE CANYON CAVE NO. 3

Brewster County # 23

Santiago Peak 15' Quadrangle

Owner: A. M. Potter

Description: This cave is about 50' from Pothole Canyon Cave No. 2. A high and winding fissure to start with, the cave becomes a crawl which finally becomes too small after 50'.

History: It was explored by SRSS in February, 1964.

Ref: Carl Kunath

RECTOR'S CAVE

Brewster County # 24

Altuda 15' Quadrangle

Owner: Nagley Ranch

Description: The entrance is a slanting shaft about 70' long. Another shaft at the bottom slants up and pinches out. A nice fringe of stalactites grows from the ceiling of this shaft.

History: Named after Jim Rector. It was sketched by him in April, 1964.

Ref: SRSS

ROCK CAVE (CHANDLER CAVE)

Brewster County # 25

Marathon 15' Quadrangle

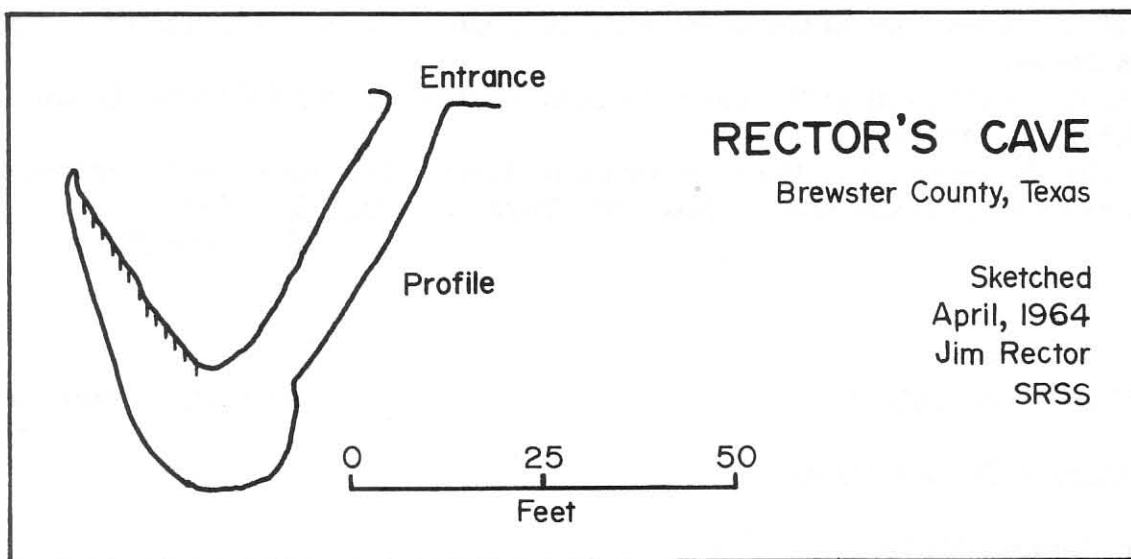
Owner: Chandler; foreman: Jack Sealy, Marathon

Description: The entrance is a horizontal hole 4'x6' about 4/5 of the way up a

hill. The cave contains much breakdown and is very dry and dusty. The cave is approximately 250' long and 50' deep. It is developed on three levels with one of the drops connecting the levels requiring a 30' rope as it is not climbable. The cave was named for the large amounts of loose, dangerous breakdown.

History: It was explored in May, 1962 by Ron Griffith, Jim Rector, Emmett O'Donald, and Nick Lucas.

Ref: TSS Files  
Grainger Hunt



### SPLIT TANK CAVE

Brewster County #26

Hess Canyon 15' Quadrangle

Owner: Carl Apple

Description: The entrance to the cave is an enlarged joint about 5' wide and 10' long, dropping about 20', and requires equipment. From the bottom of the drop a breakdown slope leads two directions. To the west it leads down about 15' vertically to an end in a "room" 20' long, 10' high, and 5' wide. The passage ends in formations. In the other direction the slope leads down into a similar enlargement where a small hole over a dead goat was enlarged to admit entry into a walking passage up to 20' high and about 200' long.

History: It was explored in June, 1963 by James Reddell and Bill Russell.

Biology: A small collection of invertebrates was made in this cave in June, 1963, by James Reddell and Bill Russell. The common troglomorphic spider, Cicurina varians Gertsch and Mulaik, was taken as well as an unidentified immature linyphiid spider. A camel cricket, Ceuthophilus (Ceuthophilus) sp., was taken also. An elaterid beetle, Esthesopus sp., and a harvestman, Leio-bunum townsendi Banks, were taken near the entrance to the cave. Also recorded from the cave is the turkey vulture, Cathartes aura (Linnaeus), two young of which were observed in the cave when the above collection was made.

Bibliography: King, P.B. 1930. The geology of the Glass Mountains, Texas.

Part I. Descriptive geology. Univ. Texas Bull., 3038. 167 pp.

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

---. 1966. A checklist of the cave fauna of Texas. II. Insecta. Texas J. Sci., 18:25-56.

---. 1967. A checklist of the cave fauna of Texas. III. Vertebrata. Texas J. Sci., 19:184-226.

---. 1970. A checklist of the cave fauna of Texas. IV. Additional records of Invertebrata (exclusive of Insecta). Texas J. Sci., 21:389-415.

Ref: TSS Files

SWALLOW SINKHOLE

Brewster County #27

Hess Canyon 15' Quadrangle

Owner: George Mills

Description: The entrance is an impressive sinkhole on the side of a low hill. The depth of the drop varies due to the location of the rigging point on the hill. The north side is best for descent and is about 120'. A sheep fence "ladder" is located on the south end of the pit where the drop is about 90'. The cave is an unroofed fault rather than a solution cavity. The walls of the drop are highly fractured rock and the bottom of the hole is covered completely with breakdown. Numerous cracks and holes were investigated in the breakdown but no passages were discovered. It is possible to descend between the wall and the breakdown for about 40' although it is very tight, varying between 1-3'. The cave is the home of many cave swallows and their droppings are several feet deep on the floor.

History: It was first explored by cavers in December, 1962 by Carl Kunath. Kunath made a sketch of the cave in April, 1964. On May 22, 1971 a group of local youths were exploring the sinkhole when Dennis Boyd Pfiester of Ft. Stockton, Texas fell to his death. He was either climbing into the cave or was on his way out when he fell from the sheep fence "ladder". Rescuers lowered a Highway Patrolman into the cave and recovered the body. Dwight Deal, Hank Stoner and other members of the Paisano Grotto and Brewster County Rescue

# SWALLOW SINKHOLE

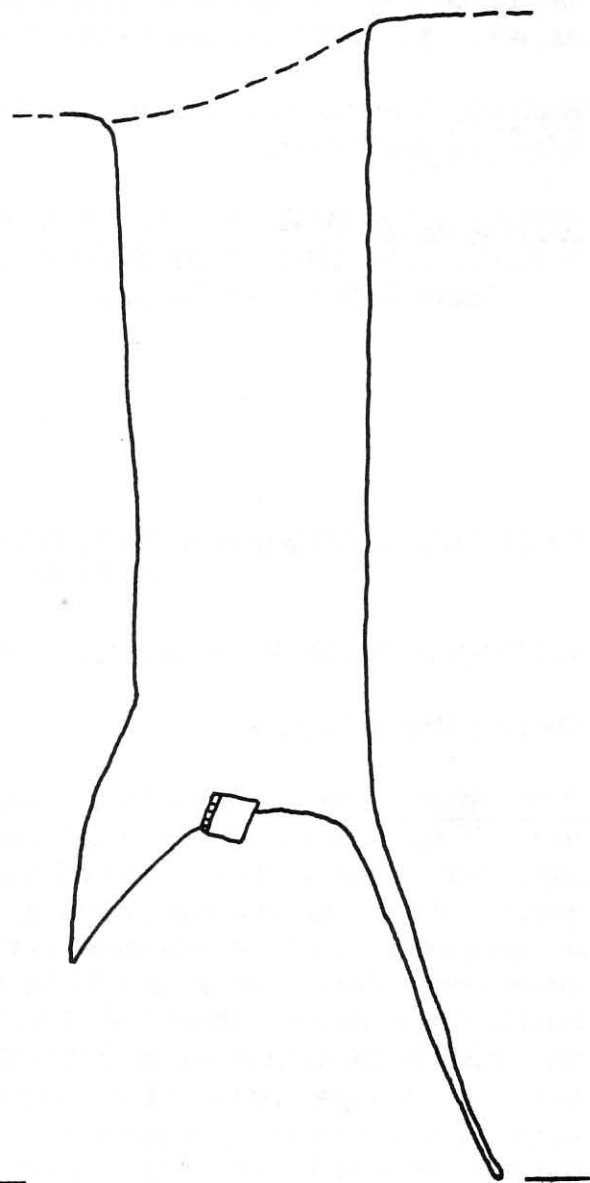
Brewster County, Texas

Sketched April, 1964

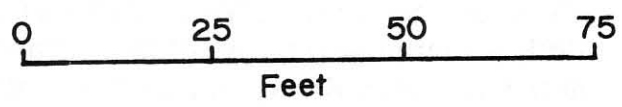
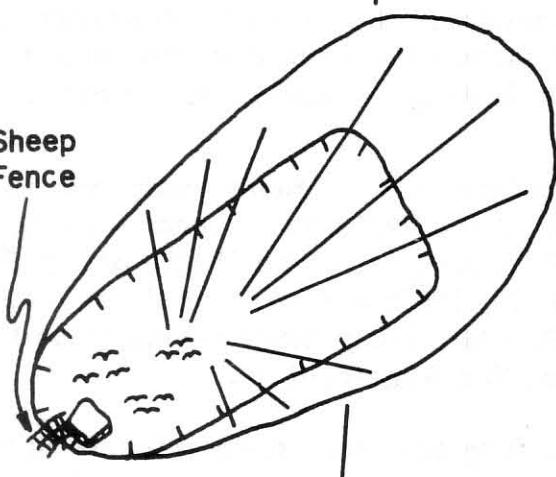
Carl Kunath

Revised June 1974

Dwight Deal



Sheep  
Fence



Squad reached the cave too late to assist in the rescue. The Paisano Grotto had made a trip to the cave just a month earlier in April, 1971 and met the new owner. Due to the accident, the cave is presently closed.

Biology: The cave is inhabited by a colony of the cave swallow, Petrochelidon fulva pallida Nelson.

Bibliography: Deal, Dwight. 1971. Trip reports. *Texas Caver*, 16(4):81.  
Reddell, J.R. 1967. A checklist of the cave fauna of Texas. III. Vertebrata. *Texas J. Sci.*, 19:184-226.

Ref: Carl Kunath  
Dwight Deal

TERLINGUA SINKHOLE (WALDRON SINK)  
(WALDRON CAVE)

Brewster County #28

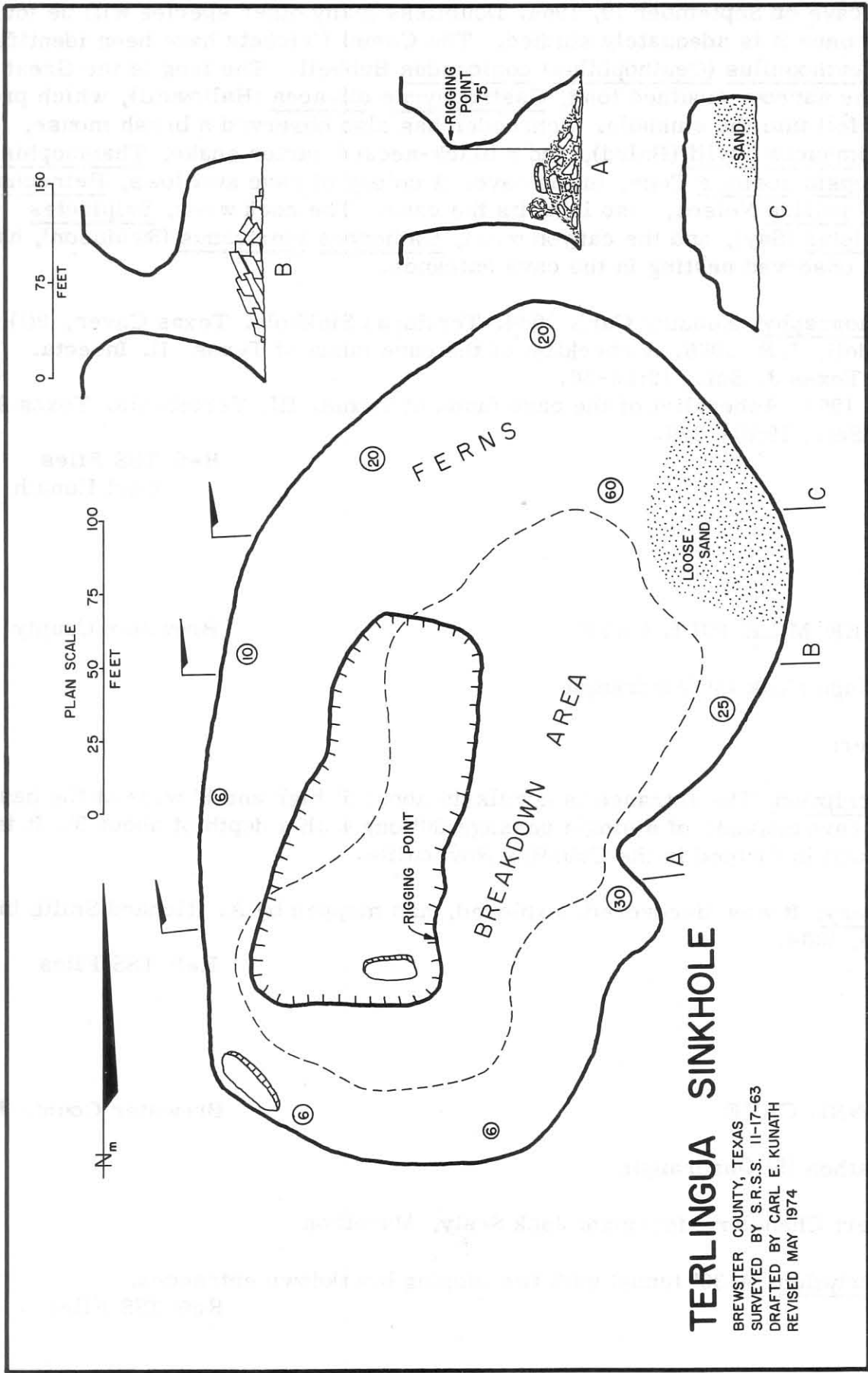
Terlingua-Chisos Mountains Quadrangle

Owner: Glenn Pepper

Description: The entrance to Terlingua Sinkhole is a giant funnel formed by the low rolling hills which surround the entrance. The funnel thus formed is perhaps 300' across. The throat of the funnel is the opening to the cave and is about 150'x75' and roughly rectangular in shape. The descent may best be made on the east side of the entrance as the drop there is only 75' and there are some convenient steel stakes to tie off to. The rope comes down onto a small mound of breakdown about 25' above the true floor of the sink. At the bottom the sinkhole measures about 300'x200'. The bottom is partially covered with lush, green vegetation. There are small trees, bushes, and many varieties of fern. There is a large mound of loose sand in the northeast corner for which there is no satisfactory explanation. Drainage appears to be uniform around the entire circumference of the hole and no passages leading out have been found. Extreme care should be exercised at all times around the edges of the pit. The sides are very steep and covered with loose rock and assorted thorny plants. The rigging of the drop is more dangerous than the drop itself, as it would be very easy to lose your footing and slide into the cave.

History: The sink is well known locally and was visited many years ago as evidenced by the steel stakes which were set on the east side. Recorded trips include one by Harry Miles, Bill Bell, T.R. Evans, and Tom White on April 1, 1961; a mapping trip by SRSS on November 17, 1963; and a trip by Preston Knodell and Orion Knox, Jr. on December 26, 1961. Many more recent trips have been made by cavers from Alpine, Dallas, San Angelo, et. al.

Biology: Robert C. Schroeder collected a frog and many cave crickets in this



# TERLINGUA SINKHOLE

BREWSTER COUNTY, TEXAS  
 SURVEYED BY S.R.S.S. 11-17-63  
 DRAFTED BY CARL E. KUNATH  
 REVISED MAY 1974

this cave on September 19, 1964. Doubtless many other species will be found here once it is adequately studied. The Camel Crickets have been identified as Ceuthophilus (Ceuthophilus) conicaudus Hubbell. The frog is the Great Plains narrow-mouthed toad, Gastrophyrne olivacea (Hallowell), which probably fell into the sinkhole. Schroeder has also observed a brush mouse, Peromyscus boylii (Baird), and a black-necked garter snake, Thamnophis cyrtopsis ocellata Cope, in the cave. A colony of cave swallows, Petrochelidon fulva pallida Nelson, also inhabits the cave. The rock wren, Salpinctes obsoletus (Say), and the canyon wren, Catherpes mexicanus (Swainson), have been observed nesting in the cave entrance.

Bibliography: Kunath, Carl. 1964. Terlingua Sinkhole. Texas Caver, 9(1):45.  
Reddell, J.R. 1966. A checklist of the cave fauna of Texas. II. Insecta. Texas J. Sci., 18:25-56.  
---. 1967. A checklist of the cave fauna of Texas. III. Vertebrata. Texas J. Sci., 19:184-226.

Ref: TSS Files  
Carl Kunath

### THREE MILE HILL CAVE

Brewster County #29

Santiago Peak 15' Quadrangle

Owner:

Description: The entrance is a walk-in about 5' high and 8' wide at the base. The cave consists of a single passage 30' long with a depth of about 3'. It is dry and is formed in the Caballos Novaculite.

History: It was discovered, explored, and mapped by A. Richard Smith in June, 1964.

Ref: TSS Files

### TUNNEL CAVE

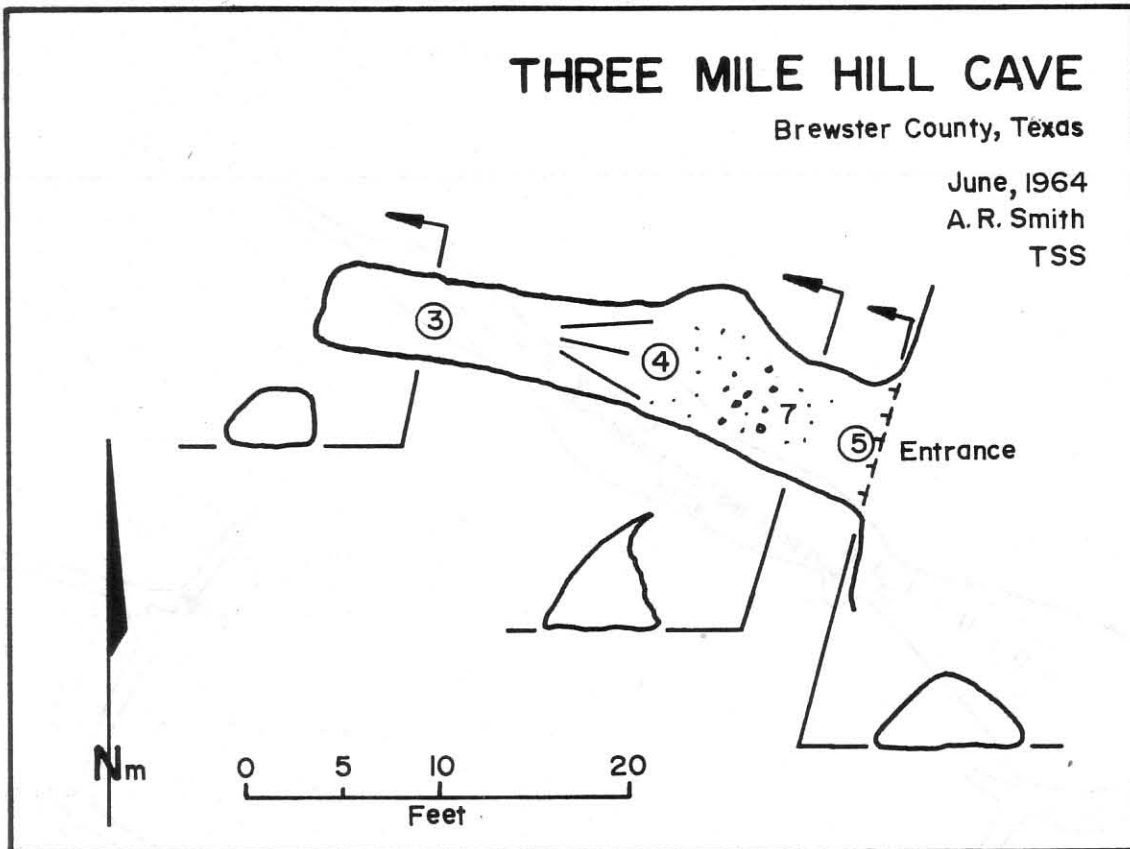
Brewster County # 30

Marathon 15' Quadrangle

Owner: Chandler; foreman: Jack Sealy, Marathon

Description: A 30' tunnel with two sloping breakdown entrances.

Ref: TSS Files



WALDRON MINE CAVE (WALDRON CAVE)  
(COLQUITT-TIGNER MINE)

Brewster County # 31

Terlingua-Chisos Mountains Quadrangle

Owner: Glenn Pepper

Description: The mine follows a set of joints in the Devil's River limestone that was partly enlarged by solution and filled or almost filled with deposits of clay, calcite, and cinnabar ore. In the northwest part of the workings is a large solution chamber. It is an irregular shaped cavity consisting of several interconnected caves or rooms. Varying in width up to 60', they extend to a length of about 340' and to a depth of 200'. It was originally almost filled with a fine-grained sediment containing sulfide and chloride of mercury in large enough quantity to be mined. The upper 20' or so of the cavity was originally unfilled.

History: It was originally opened and operated by Colquitt-Tigner. The Waldron Quicksilver Properties Incorporated operated the mine from 1925-1927

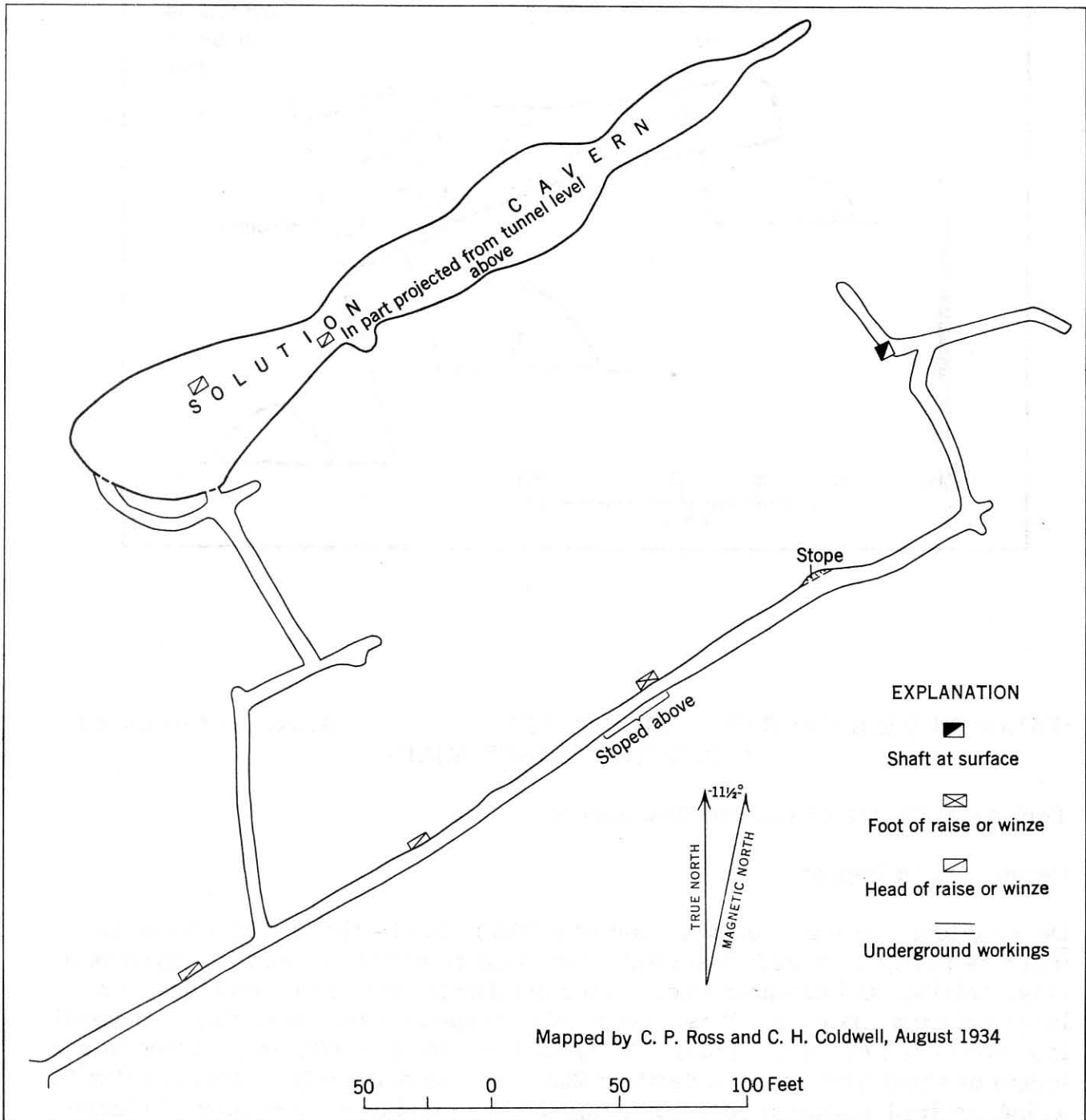


FIGURE 25.—Sketch map of the adit level, Colquitt-Tigner mine.

and again in 1934. It was visited and mapped by C.P. Ross and C.R. Coldwell in August, 1934. Presently, it is owned by Glenn Pepper/Villa de la Mina with guided tours being made into the mine/cave as a tourist attraction.

Bibliography: Ross, C.P., and C.R. Coldwell. 1959. Geology and quick-silver deposits of the Terlingua District-Texas. Geol. Surv. Prof. Pap., 312, p.99. (Map)

Yates, R.G., and G.A. Thompson. Ibid, p.98.

Ref: TSS Files

#### WATTERS CAVE

Brewster County # 32

Terlingua-Chisos Mountains Quadrangle

Owner: Glenn Pepper

Description: The cave is 60' long, 40' deep, and has one level. The floor is damp and of dirt. Entrance is by a sink requiring vertical equipment. The cave strikes east and dips 5°-10° to the south.

History: Originally reported by Bud Frank (UTSS, Austin).

Ref: TSS Files

#### WATTERS TRASH CAVE

Brewster County # 33

Terlingua-Chisos Mountains Quadrangle

Owner: Glenn Pepper

Description: A sink entrance 21' deep leads into a 20' long passage. The cave is dry with 10'-15' of overburden. No equipment is needed for the climbable drop. The cave strikes roughly E and dips 5-10° S.

History: Originally reported by Bud Frank (UTSS, Austin).

Ref: TSS Files

COPPERHEAD CRACK CAVE

Brewster County #34

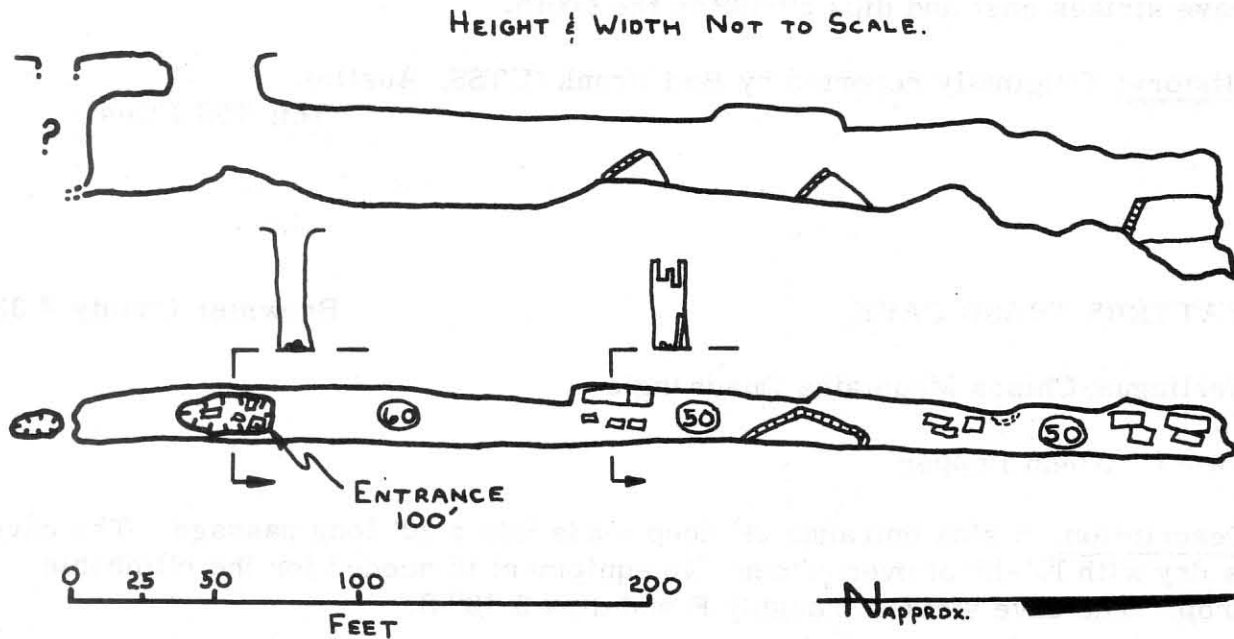
Bullis Gap 15' Quadrangle

Owner: Sid Slaguhter (Slaughter?)

Description: Two entrances were found about 50' apart, but only the north one was entered. This was a pit 6-8' wide and 100' deep. While it may be possible to chimney the drop, it is probably better done with a rope. No information on rigging requirement was available at publication date. At the bottom is a small breakdown pile with a 50-60' high, 8-10' wide crevice passage going off in two directions. To the south it ends after about 25' with a small unentered squeeze leading in the direction of the other entrance. To the north it extends for about 375' over an irregular, breakdown littered floor with a few very large slabs of breakdown positioned vertically. Near the back of the passage the floor drops slightly and finally ends abruptly in a wall.

History: The cave was first explored on June 12, 1971, by Charles Fromén and Mike Connolly. A sketch map was made by Fromén.

Ref: Charles Fromén



COPPERHEAD CRACK CAVE  
BREWSTER COUNTY, TEXAS

SKETCHED JUNE 12, 1971  
CHARLES FROMÉN

WOOD CAVE

Brewster County # 35

Terlingua-Chisos Mountains Quadrangle

Owner:

Description: The entrance is just above and to the left of Histoplasmosis Cave. A 30' passage curves to the left and narrows down. It can be seen to widen again but would require digging or blasting to get through. To enter the cave it is necessary to rappel down from the top of the bluff.

History: It was first entered in the summer of 1964 by James Wood.

Ref: SRSS

PICTURESQUE CANYON SHELTER CAVE

Brewster County # 36

Terlingua+Chisos Mountains Quadrangle

Owner: U. S. Government

Description: This is a shelter type cave with an entrance 27' wide. The cave extends back 38', and is reported as dry.

History: Originally reported by M. R. Harrington in 1928.

Bibliography: Harrington, M. R. 1928. A new archeological field in Texas. Indian Notes, 5(3):307-316.

Ref: TSS Files

COFFEE BREAK CAVE

Brewster County #37

Owner:

Description: The entrance is 18" in diameter and leads into a small, dusty cave with a breakdown floor. The cave is said to be about the size of the upper level of O. T. L. Cave. It is located on a hill with several other small holes, none of which qualify as a cave.

History: It was discovered and explored on March 20, 1971, by Hank Stoner, Larry Williams, and others of the Paisano Grotto. Bill McKee reportedly

made a sketch of the cave but it is unavailable. Larry Williams submitted a rough sketch map with the cave report but it is unsuitable for reproduction.

Bibliography: Williams, Larry. 1971. Trip reports. Texas Caver, 16(4):83.  
Ref: Larry Williams

CORN GRINDER CAVE

Brewster County # 38

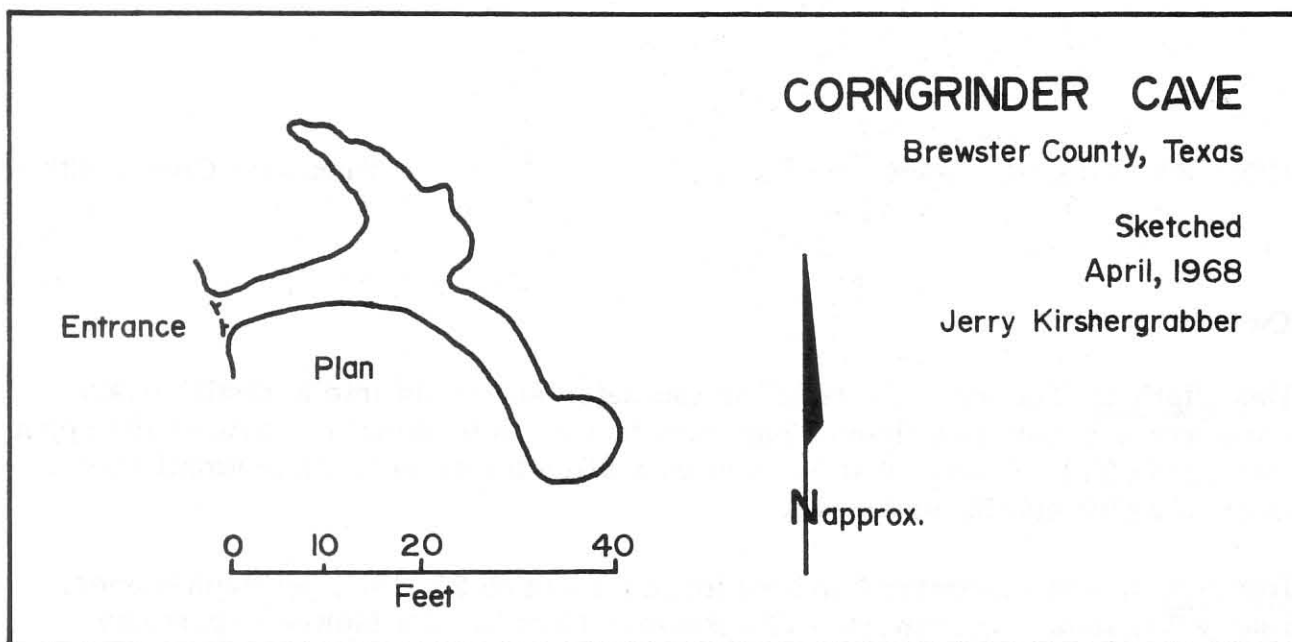
Terlingua-Chisos Mountains Quadrangle

Owner: State of Texas (leased to Diamond A Mine Co.)

Description: A crawlway entrance in the side of a gully leads to a 25' long passage. At the end of this passage and to the right the cave extends for about 30' to a small circular room. To the left it ends after 20'. The cave is very dry and dusty. There are many interesting notches cut into the limestone walls, this done presumably by Indians. Several metates and one projectile have been found in or near the cave.

History: The cave was frequented by early Indians (or perhaps Mexicans) as evidenced by the artifacts. It was found by Jerry Kirchgraber on April 20, 1968. It was explored the next day by him and Ring Huggins. A sketch map of the cave was made. Ronnie Fieseler and Carl Kunath chanced upon this cave while riding motorcycles nearby in November, 1971.

Ref: TSS Files  
Jerry Kirchgraber



HUNTING CAMP CAVE

Brewster County #39

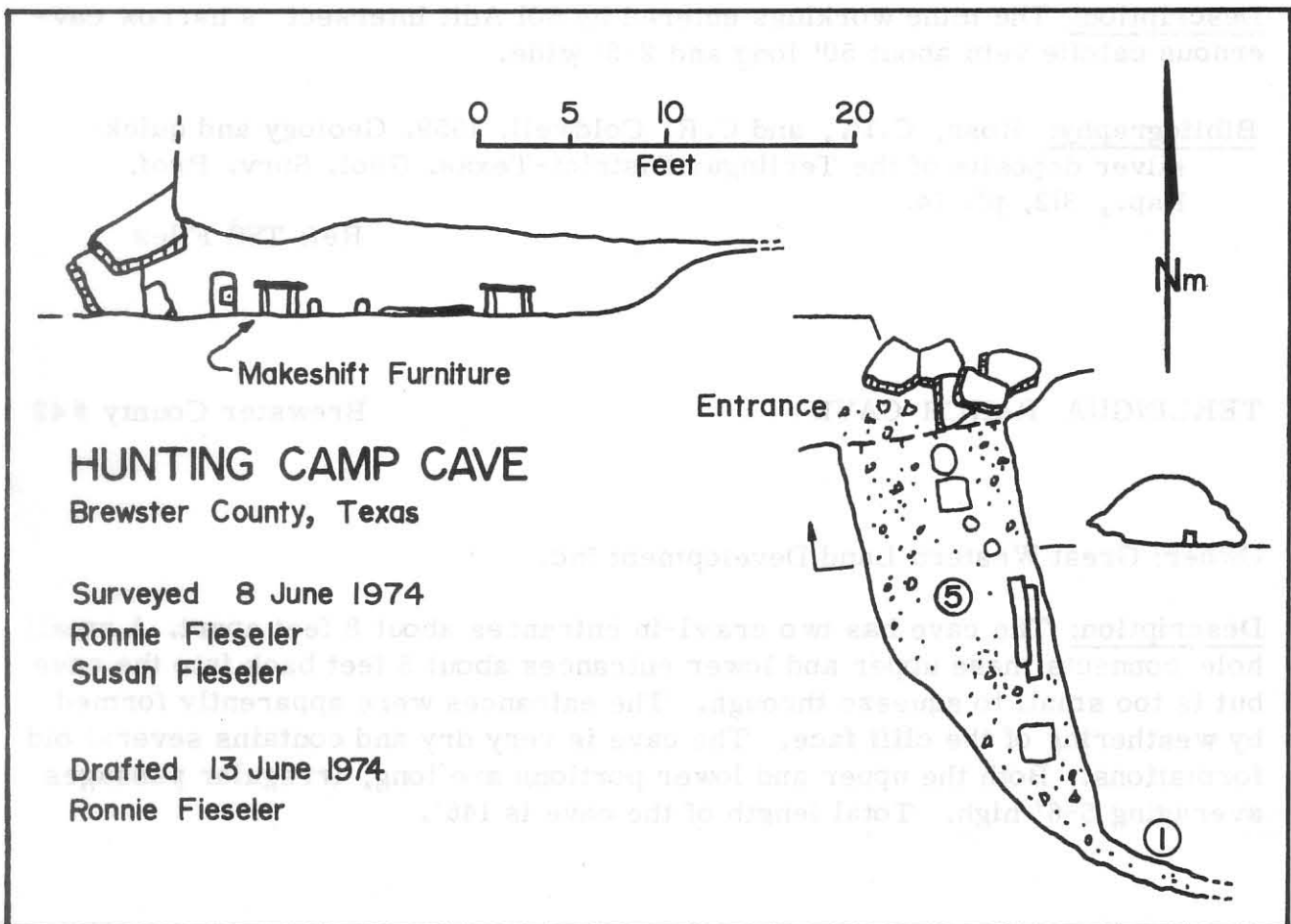
Terlingua-Chisos Mountains Quadrangle

Owner: Great Western Land Development Inc.

Description: A jumble of large breakdown blocks nearly hides the 10' wide and 5' high entrance. Gradually narrowing, the cave extends back about 25' and rises to a +3' in depth. At this point, the cave makes a slight bend to the left and becomes a crawl for about 6'. The passage continues ahead for at least another 10' but is too low to negotiate without digging. Several items of makeshift furniture were in the cave, presumably brought there by hunters from the nearby camp. Two tables, two stools, and an oil drum stove were there at the time of the initial trip. Also observed were two wooden signs reading: "4 Wheel Drive Only Beyond Here".

History: The cave was discovered and explored on June 8, 1974 by Randy Reynolds, Ronnie Fieseler, Susan Fieseler, Craig Bittinger, and Pat Asnes. It had obviously been entered in the past by hunters and the blackened ceiling may indicate possible Indian occupancy. The cave was surveyed by Ronnie Fieseler and Susan Fieseler.

Ref: TSS Files



CHISOS MINE CAVE

Brewster County # 40

Terlingua-Chisos Mountain Quadrangle

Owner: Esperado Mining Co.

Description: A 4' vein of cavernous calcite is shown on a map (Plate 19) in the USGS Professional Paper 312. It is on the -725' level near the No. 9 shaft.

Bibliography: Ross, C.P., and C.R. Coldwell. 1959. Geology and quick-silver deposits of the Terlingua District-Texas. Geol. Surv. Prof. Pap., 312, pl. 19.

Ref: TSS Files

601 ADIT CAVE

Brewster County # 41

Terlingua-Chisos Mountains Quadrangle

Owner: Esperado Mining Co.

Description: The mine workings entered by 601 Adit intersect a narrow cavernous calcite vein about 50' long and 2-5' wide.

Bibliography: Ross, C.P., and C.R. Coldwell. 1959. Geology and quick-silver deposits of the Terlingua District-Texas. Geol. Surv. Prof. Pap., 312, pl. 14.

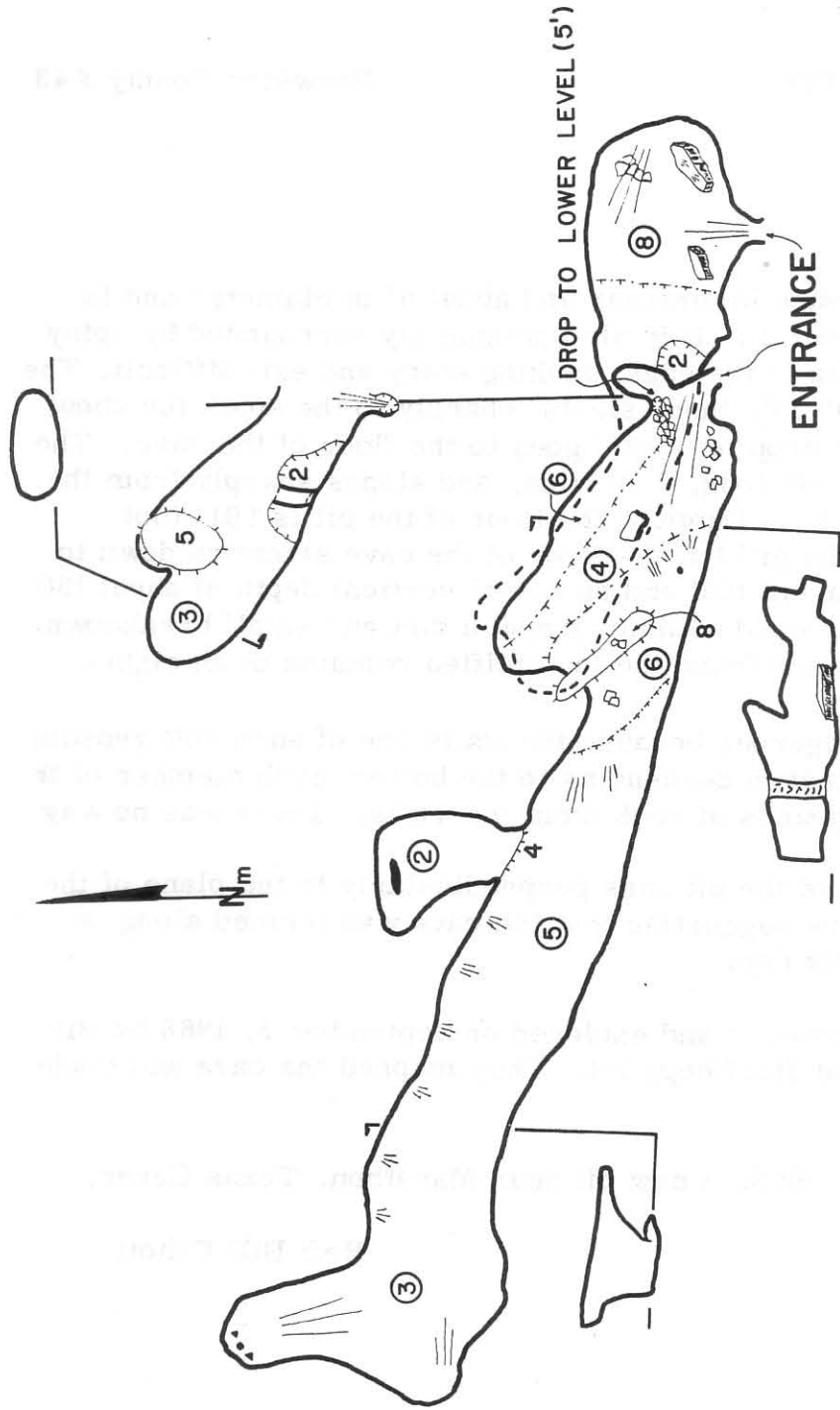
Ref: TSS Files

TERLINGUA RANCH CAVE

Brewster County # 42

Owner: Great Western Land Development Inc.

Description: The cave has two crawl-in entrances about 8 feet apart. A small hole connects these upper and lower entrances about 5 feet back into the cave but is too small to squeeze through. The entrances were apparently formed by weathering of the cliff face. The cave is very dry and contains several old formations. Both the upper and lower portions are long, irregular passages averaging 5-6' high. Total length of the cave is 146'.



# TERLINGUA RANCH CAVE

BREWSTER COUNTY, TEXAS  
 BRUNTON & TAPE SURVEY

M. WALSH, J. JONDAHL, L. McNATT,

B. PETERSON & J. SUMBERA

SWTSS 7 NOVEMBER 1969

DRAFTED BY J. SUMBERA

History: It was first explored by Joe Sumbera, Brian Peterson, Mike Walsh, Logan McNatt, and John Jondahl of the Southwest Texas Speleological Society on November 7, 1969.

Biology: An unidentified bat was observed.

Ref: Logan McNatt  
TSS Files  
SWTSS

DONNELL'S DEAD DEER PIT

Brewster County # 43

Marathon 15' Quadrangle

Owner: William Donnell

Description: The cave entrance is circular and about 6' in diameter and is undercut on all sides for about 2'. It is also completely surrounded by spiny cactus and lechugilla right up to the edge, making entry and exit difficult. The pit drops vertically about 30-35', then slants sharply to the south for about 40' where a completely free drop of 30-35' goes to the floor of the cave. The room at the bottom is about 50' long, 5-6' wide, and slopes sharply from the north to the south for about 15'. Depth to the floor of the pit is 101' (not accounting for the slant of the pit) but the floor of the cave slants on down to make the total depth an apparent 105' and an actual vertical depth of about 100'. The room at the bottom is floored with dry gypsum dirt and small breakdown. At the far end of the room were found the mummified remains of an eight-point mule deer.

The pit is extremely dangerous because the walls are of such soft gypsum and highly fractured chert that in descending to the bottom each member of the party knocked loose 20-30 pounds of rock from the walls. There was no way to avoid it.

The room at the bottom of the pit runs perpendicularly to the plane of the vertically bedded rock layers suggesting that the cave was formed along a joint. The cave was perfectly dry.

History: The cave was discovered and explored on September 5, 1968 by Bill Elliott, Brian Peterson, and Jim Shepperd. They mapped the cave and made biological collections.

Bibliography: Elliott, Bill. 1969. A new pit near Marathon. Texas Caver, 14(1):3-4.

Ref: Bill Elliott

# DONNELL'S DEAD DEER PIT

BREWSTER CO., TEXAS  
SKETCH MAP BY BILL ELLIOTT

4 OCT, 1968  
EXPLORED 5 SEPT, 1968  
BY B.PETERSON, J. SHEPPERD SWTCC  
AND B. ELLIOTT UTSS



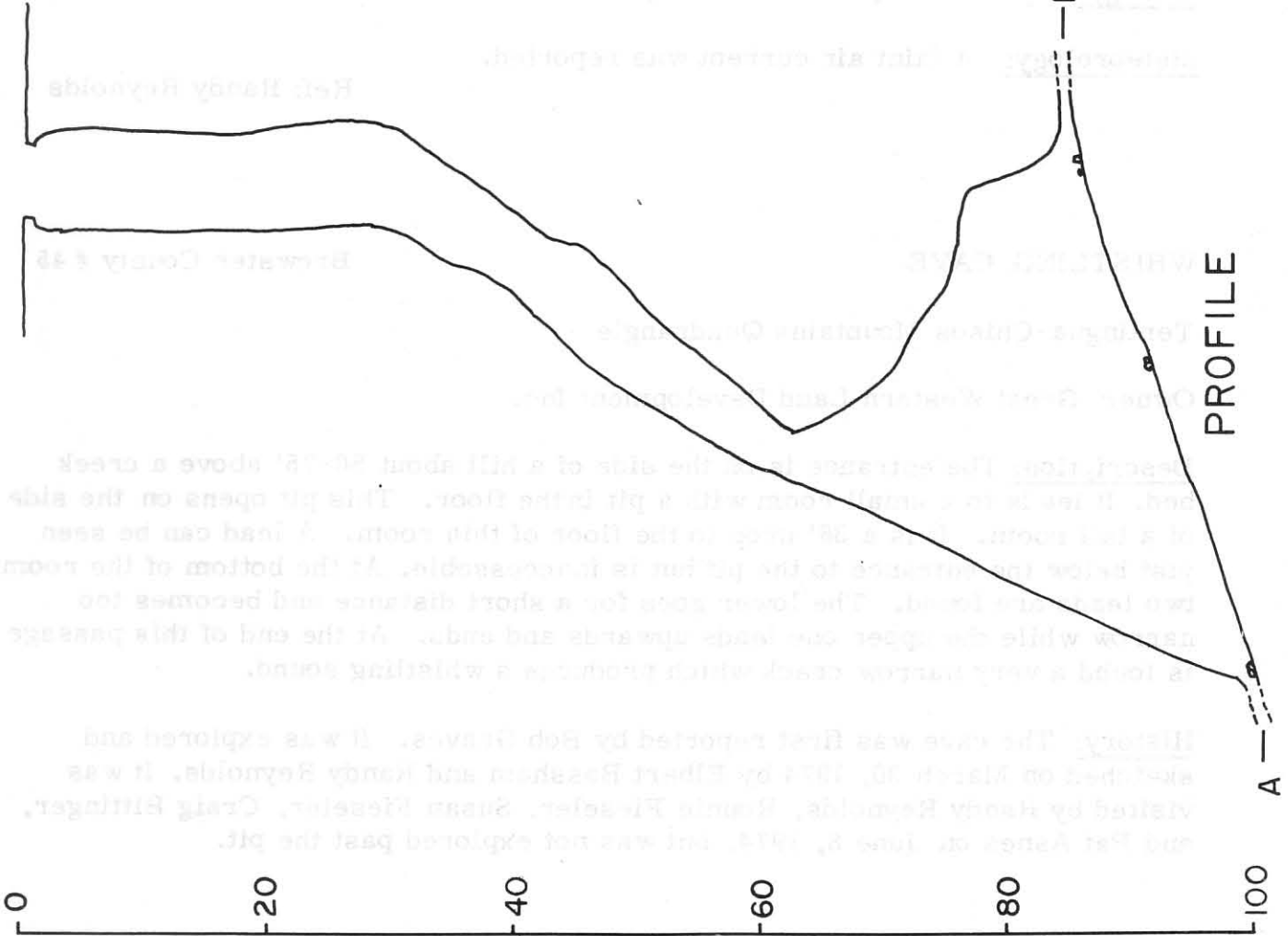
(16)



A

B

PROFILE



BARBARA'S CAVE (TANQUE CABALLO CAVE)

Brewster County #44

Terlingua-Chisos Mountains Quadrangle

Owner: Great Western Land Development Inc.

Description: A small entrance leads down a steeply sloping passage to a wide room. Continuing on the other side of the room, the passage narrows down, but soon widens again, still sloping steeply down. To the right is an irregularly shaped passage leading steeply upwards. A rock pillar divides the main passage for a short distance with a low flat room to the right and a pile of breakdown on the left. Just the other side of the breakdown is a 10' climb-down to a 10' wide, 50' long irregular shaped room with an average ceiling height of 9-10'. An intermittent stream flows along the floor of this room. Total length is about 200' with a depth of -83'.

History: This cave was first found by Bill Bourbon, Dick Cochran, and others and was named Barbara's Cave. On June 2, 1974, it was explored and mapped by Elbert Bassham, Randy Reynolds, and Roger Kruger. At this time, they named it Tanque Caballo Cave.

Biology: Harvestmen, cave crickets, and one bat were observed in the cave.

Meteorology: A faint air current was reported.

Ref: Randy Reynolds

WHISTLING CAVE

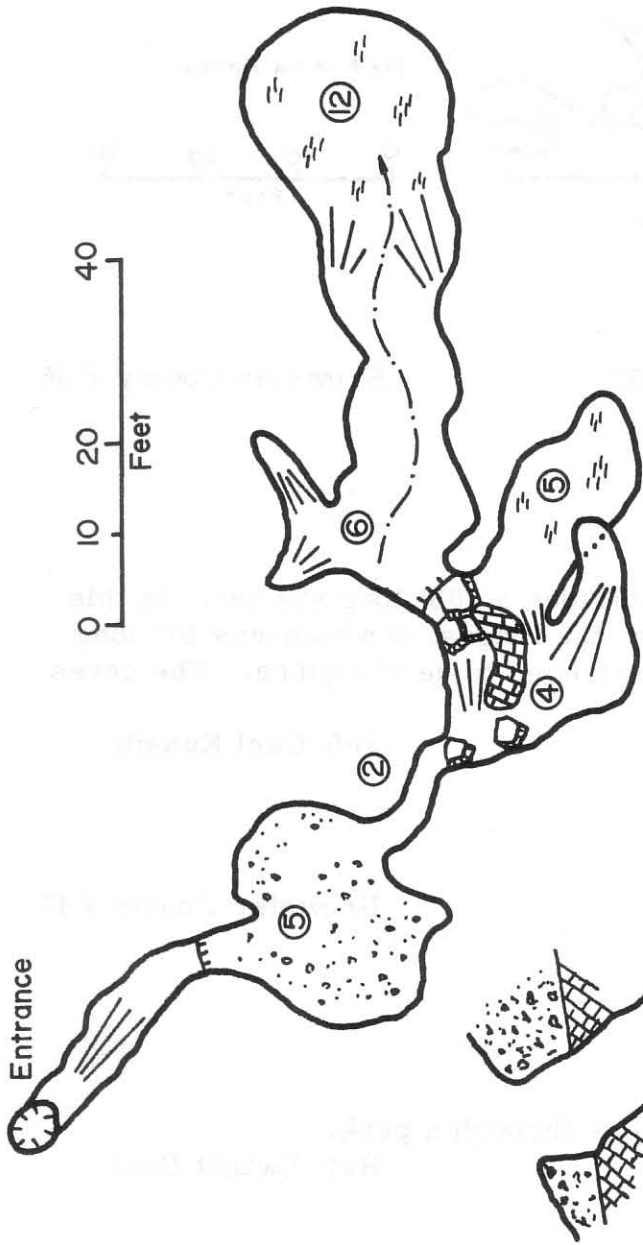
Brewster County #45

Terlingua-Chisos Mountains Quadrangle

Owner: Grest Western Land Development Inc.

Description: The entrance is on the side of a hill about 50-75' above a creek bed. It leads to a small room with a pit in the floor. This pit opens on the side of a tall room. It is a 36' drop to the floor of this room. A lead can be seen just below the entrance to the pit but is inaccessible. At the bottom of the room two leads are found. The lower goes for a short distance and becomes too narrow while the upper one leads upwards and ends. At the end of this passage is found a very narrow crack which produces a whistling sound.

History: The cave was first reported by Bob Graves. It was explored and sketched on March 30, 1974 by Elbert Bassham and Randy Reynolds. It was visited by Randy Reynolds, Ronnie Fieseler, Susan Fieseler, Craig Bittinger, and Pat Asnes on June 8, 1974, but was not explored past the pit.



# BARBARA'S CAVE (Tanque Caballo Cave)

Brewster County, Texas

Surveyed 2 June 1974

Elbert Bassham

Roger Kruger

Randy Reynolds

Drafted 5 August 1974

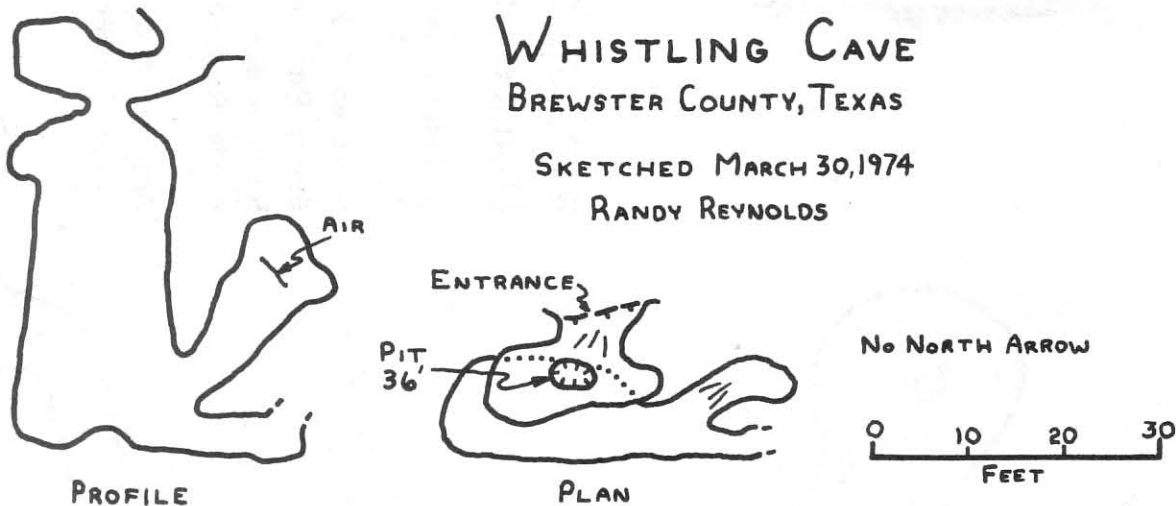
Ronnie Fieseler

Extended Profile

Biology: The following animals were observed in the cave: harvestmen, cave crickets, assassin bugs, a beetle, and a scorpion. None were collected.

Meteorology: An air current blowing through a narrow crack produces a whistling sound. Little, if any, airflow is detectable at the entrance.

Ref: Randy Reynolds  
Elbert Bassham



## WHISTLING CAVE BREWSTER COUNTY, TEXAS

SKETCHED MARCH 30, 1974  
RANDY REYNOLDS

BEE CAVE (BEE CAVE CANYON CAVE)

Brewster County # 46

Nine Point Mesa 15' Quadrangle

Owner: Lee Schuler

Description: Massive breakdown nearly divides a 768' long shelter. In this breakdown are found several small caves, the longest of which was 37' long and about 9' wide. A smaller "cave" is reported to be 9' square. The caves are probably tectonic.

Ref: Carl Kunath

LAVA TUBE

Brewster County # 47

Owner:

Description: The cave is 100' long and goes through a peak.

Ref: Dwight Deal

TIGER SALAMANDER CAVE

Brewster County # 48

Hess Canyon 15' Quadrangle

Owner: Carl Apple

Description: The entrance is a climbable 12' drop followed by a 15' pit which requires a rope. This drop comes down through the ceiling of a N40°W trending room about 20' from the SE end and 30' from the NW wall. The floor slopes downward to the NW and is covered with small rocks and dirt. A small passage slopes down further to the NW past the NW wall to a rock and dirt plug which is the deepest point in the cave at -44'. The widest part of the cave is at the NW wall which is 25' with a ceiling height of about 20'. This NW wall is very flat and is similar to the flat north wall in Lichnovsky's Cave. The SE end of the cave is a small room about 4' in diameter whose floor is at the -20' level. The walls of the cave are for the most part covered with dry flowstone with a coral-like surface.

History: The cave was first entered by Roger Bartholomew and William Wright on August 9, 1970 at which time it was surveyed.

Biology: Three salamanders were observed on the floor of the cave. They were black with yellow stripes across their backs. It is assumed that they were Tiger Salamanders.

Ref: Roger Bartholomew

SUNNY GLEN CANYON CAVE #1 (ROCK  
PILLAR CAVE,  
COMANCHE CAVE,  
INDIAN CAVE ON  
COMANCHE MOUNTAIN)

Brewster County # 49

Alpine 15' Quadrangle

Owner:

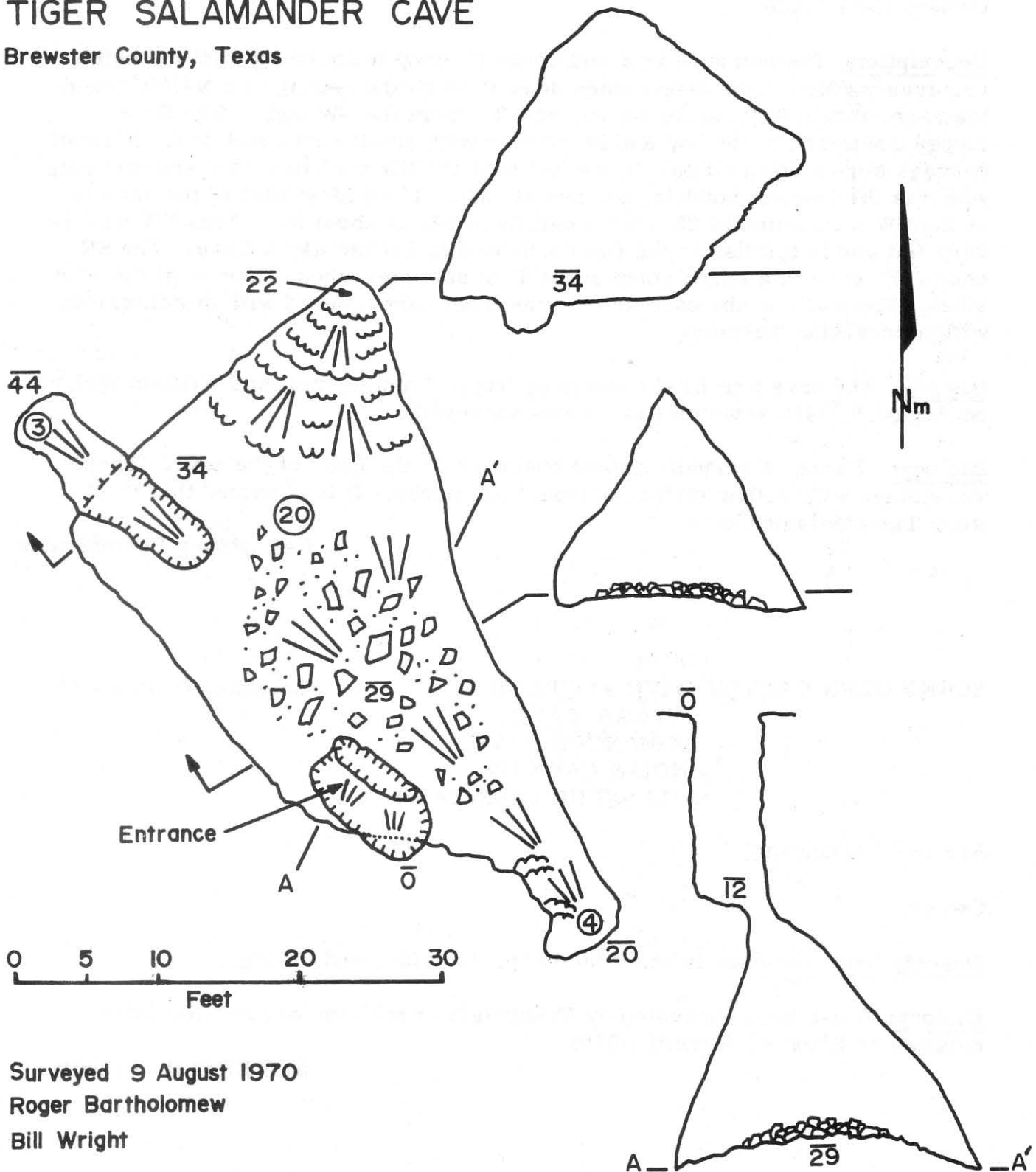
Description: The cave is about 80' deep, 40' wide, and 15' high.

History: It has been excavated by Frank Setzler with the excavations later detailed by Elton R. Prewitt (1970).

Ref: Elton R. Prewitt

# TIGER SALAMANDER CAVE

Brewster County, Texas



Surveyed 9 August 1970  
Roger Bartholomew  
Bill Wright

BOQUILLAS CANYON CAVE (SAND DUNE CAVE)  
(SAND CAVE)

Brewster County # 50

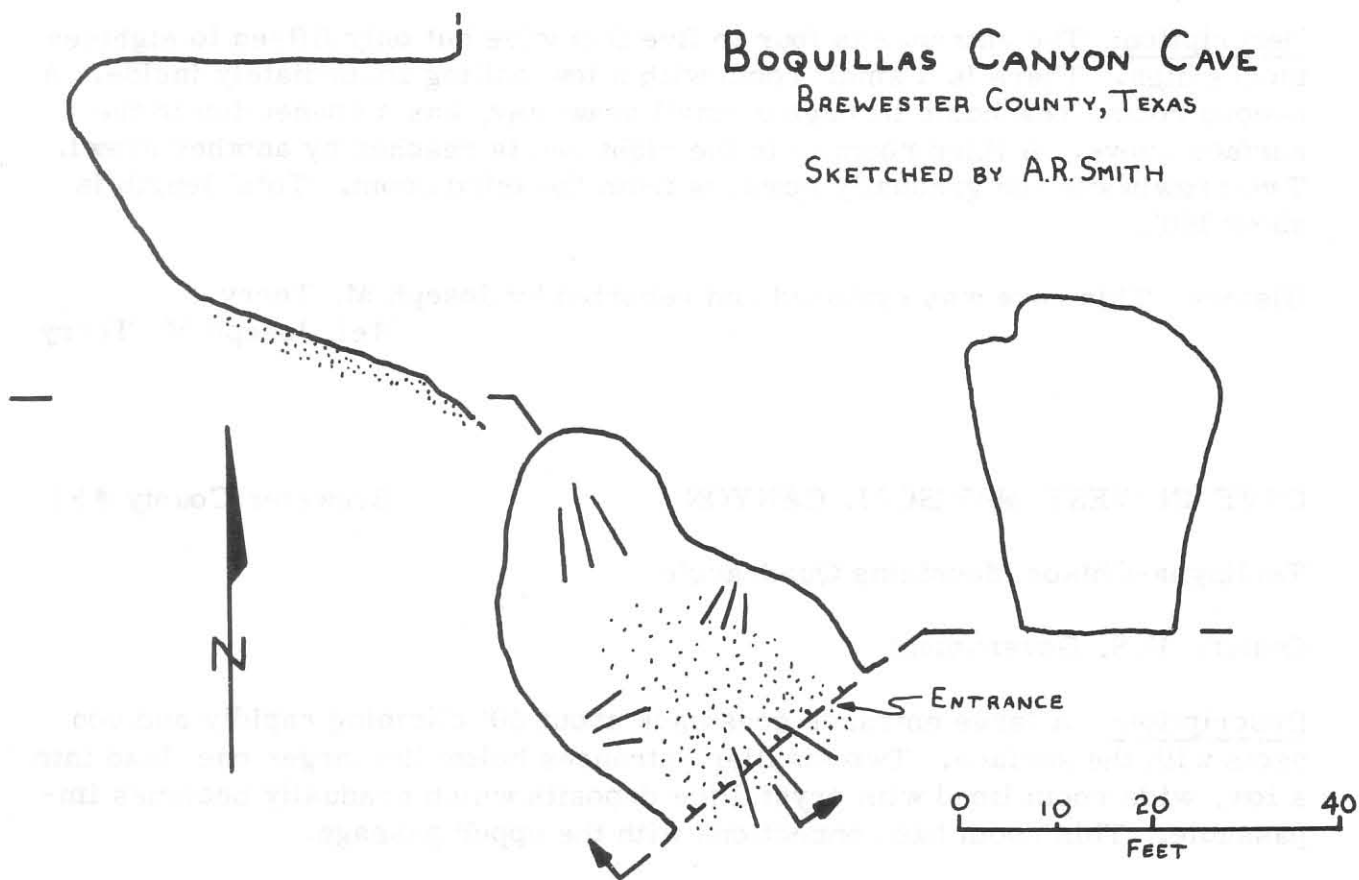
Terlingua-Chisos Mountains Quadrangle

Owner: U.S. Government

Description: This is the well known and frequently visited cave located just inside the entrance to Boquillas Canyon. Situated at the top of an immense sand slope, it presents a remarkable sight. The sand appears to be pouring out of the entrance. However, this is not the case. Geologists feel that the proximity of the two features are coincidental. The cave was formed in the rock before or perhaps during the formation of the canyon while the sand dune was formed after the canyon. The imposing entrance is about 25' x 30' and roughly square. The cave extends back about 40'.

History: This cave is probably visited hundreds of times yearly by tourists in Big Bend National Park. It is not known when it was discovered, but has undoubtedly been known for many years.

Ref: TSS Files



PIT NEAR WHISTLING CAVE

Brewster County # 51

Terlingua-Chisos Mountains Quadrangle

Owner: Great Western Land Development Inc.

Description: The entrance is a pit in the bottom of a sink. A road makes a sharp curve or switchback around the sink. A rope is required for the drop which is in the neighborhood of 20-30' but has not been measured.

History: The cave was explored by Randy Reynolds and others of the Paisano Grotto in Alpine. It has not been surveyed or the drop accurately measured.

Ref: Randy Reynolds

CAVE IN ERNST VALLEY

Brewster County # 52

Terlingua-Chisos Mountains Quadrangle

Owner: U.S. Government

Description: The entrance is four to five feet wide but only fifteen to eighteen inches high. There is a small room with a low ceiling immediately inside. A second room, reachable through a small crawlway, has a connection to the surface above. A third room is to the right and is reached by another crawl. Two crawlways ran gradually upwards from the third room. Total length is about 150'.

History: This cave was explored and reported by Joseph M. Terry.

Ref: Joseph M. Terry

CAVE IN WEST MARISCAL CANYON

Brewster County # 53

Terlingua-Chisos Mountains Quadrangle

Owner: U.S. Government

Description: A large entrance goes back about 50' climbing rapidly and connects with the surface. Two smaller entrances below the larger one lead into a low, wide room lined with crystalline deposits which gradually becomes impassable. This room has connections with the upper passage.

History: This cave was explored and reported by Joseph M. Terry.

Ref: Joseph M. Terry

BEE HIVE SINK

Brewster County # 54

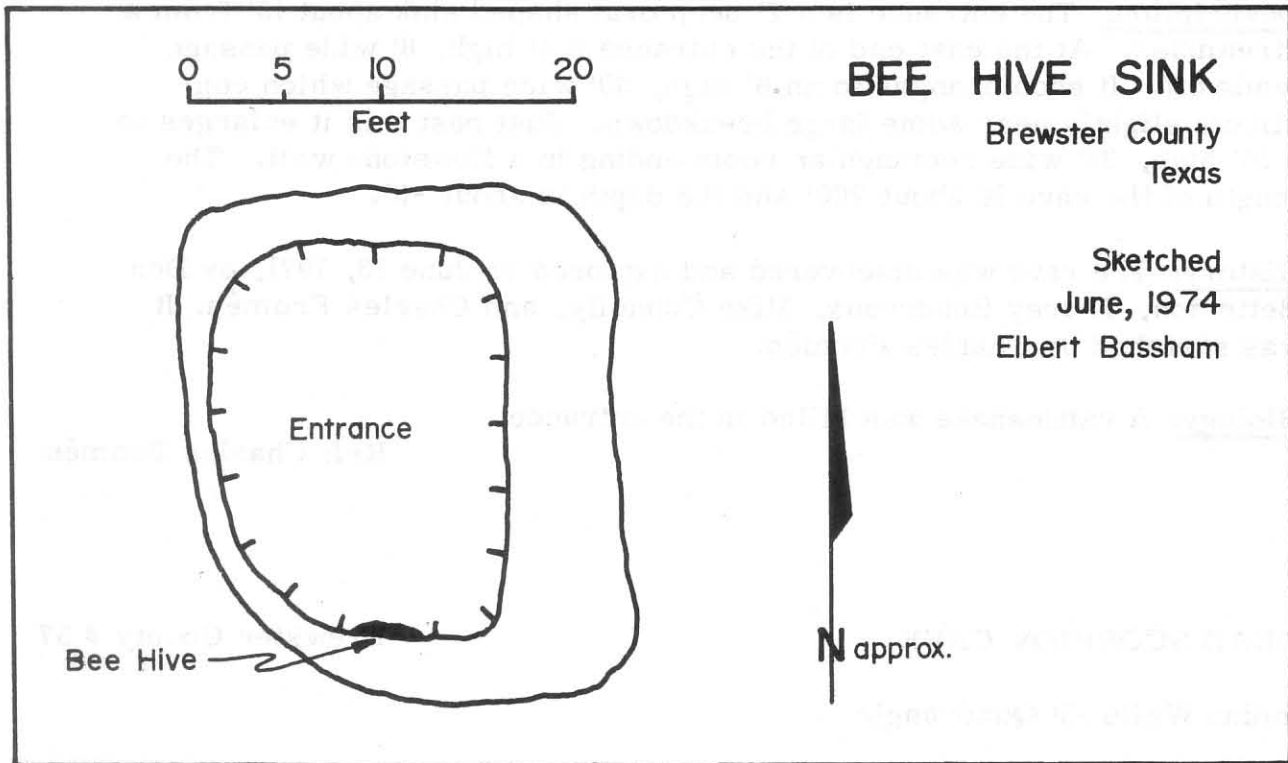
Agua Fria 15' Quadrangle

Owner: Great Western Land Development Inc.

Description: This cave is a sinkhole with an entrance roughly 20' square with a bee hive on one side. The cave bells out slightly to the floor, roughly 20' down. No passages were seen to lead off.

History: The cave was first reported by Elbert Bassham who found it while he was surveying in the area. He was unable to enter it due to lack of equipment.

Ref: Elbert Bassham



CAVE IN EAST MARISCAL CANYON

Brewster County # 55

Terlingua-Chisos Mountains Quadrangle

Owner: U.S. Government

Description: An entrance crawl leads upwards through several tight places and relatively large rooms to emerge in a larger room with two crawlways, one

down and to the left and the other straight and level. These two passages were not entered due to lack of sufficient light.

History: This cave was explored and reported by Joseph M. Terry.

Ref: Joseph M. Terry

#### SHOOT T-2 CAVE

Brewster County # 56

Indian Wells 15' Quadrangle

Owner: Shoot T-2 Ranch

Description: The entrance is a 2' deep oval shaped sink about 15' from a streambed. At the east end of the entrance a 4' high, 8' wide passage leads off. It soon changes to an 8' high, 30' wide passage which constricts slightly near some large breakdown. Just past this it enlarges to a 15' high, 35' wide rectangular room ending in a flowstone wall. The length of the cave is about 200' and the depth is about -3'.

History: The cave was discovered and explored on June 13, 1971, by Don Betterton, Tracey Boudreaux, Mike Connolly, and Charles Fromén. It was sketched by Charles Fromén.

Biology: A rattlesnake was killed in the entrance.

Ref: Charles Fromén

#### DEAD SCORPION CAVE

Brewster County # 57

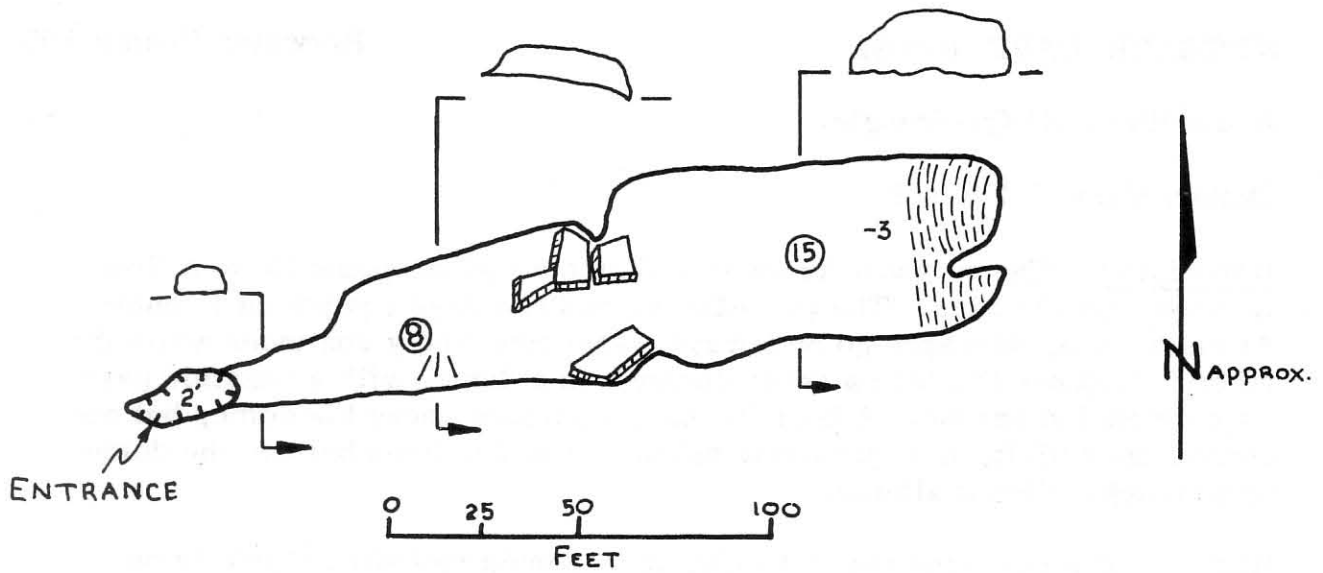
Indian Wells 15' Quadrangle

Owner: Shoot T-2 Ranch

Description: There are two entrances about 25' apart. One was blasted open to gain entry to the cave. The other entrance apparently does not connect. A 5' deep drop leads to a small breakdown pile. A passage 5-10' wide and 3-6' high extends west for about 200'. The floor slopes from right to left with a dirt fill along the left wall. Two small holes lead down from this fill. Strong air currents were detected at both these holes, as well as the other unentered entrance.

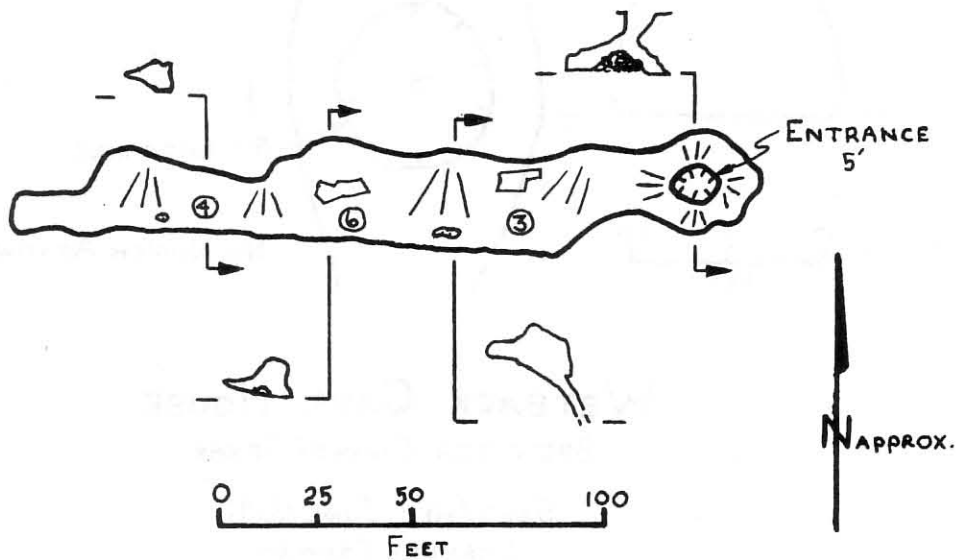
History: The cave was discovered and blasted open by Charles Fromén and Mike Connolly on June 12, 1971. A sketch map was made by Charles Fromén.

Ref: Charles Fromén



SHOOT T-2 CAVE  
 BREWSTER COUNTY, TEXAS  
 SKETCHED JUNE 13, 1971  
 CHARLES FROMÉN

DEAD SCORPION CAVE  
 BREWSTER COUNTY, TEXAS  
 SKETCHED JUNE 12, 1971  
 CHARLES FROMÉN



WETBACK CAVE HOUSE

Brewster County #58

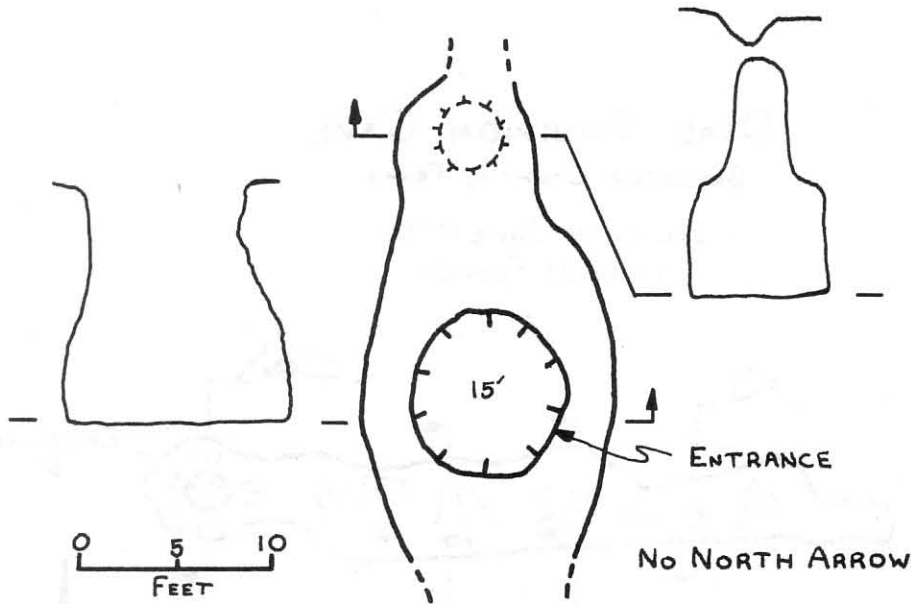
Indian Wells 15' Quadrangle

Owner: Shoot T-2 Ranch

Description: The entrance is an 8' in diameter pit dropping 15' to a floor littered with old cans. The pit bells out and requires equipment to enter. At the bottom, passages go both ways. One reportedly continues while the other is supposed to lead a short distance to a dome, with a possible passage extension beyond. A hole dug on the surface above the dome, but not connecting with it, is supposed to act as a vent for fires built in the dome by wetbacks (illegal aliens).

History: The cave was shown to Charles Fromén and Mike Connolly on June 13, 1971. They were unable to enter due to lack of a rope. Illegal aliens are reported to use the cave as a hideout, and the old cans indicate at least occasional visits by aliens or locals. The cave was sketched by Charles Fromén.

Ref: Charles Fromén



WETBACK CAVE HOUSE  
BREWSTER COUNTY, TEXAS

SKETCHED JUNE 13, 1971  
CHARLES FROMÉN

## LEADS AND RUMORS

The following is a compilation of leads and rumors in the TSS Brewster County file. It is hoped that cavers going to Brewster County may find an opportunity to check some of these out. The TSS would appreciate reports of any such investigations for the files.

Lochhausen Cave... Mrs. Otto (Grace) Lochhausen of Marathon refers to a cave in her letter to Bob Hudson on Feb. 11, 1956. "I feel sure Mrs. Koch(Peter) told you of the interesting cave I found where the mouth is rather small but so far as is known, I understand-the bottome (sic) has never been located the "icesycles like" drops or cores?"

Santiago Peak Cave... Bob Hudson reports a cave 6 miles southwest of Santiago Peak.

Cave of the Winds... Bill Russell reports a cave in the Glass Mountains on the old Jim Nickols place, on the west side of the Old Blue Mountain, on top of a hill in the horse trap. A crack that "I don't know if it is big enough to get into." A great blast of air comes out.

Cave on D. R. Sims Ranch... Jack Graves of Uvalde reports a cave with a small entrance on the northern edge of the south Christmas Mountains.

Sue Peak Cave... Bob Hudson and others report s cave found while building the fence for BBNP. It is located near the fence, within 50 yards of a trail in the Sue Peak area. It is said to be a hole no more than 4" in diameter and very deep. Cold air blows from it. Several people have searched for this cave to no avail.

Cave Under the Rio Grande... This wild rumor reports a cave running under the lower end of Santa Elena Canyon with entrances on both the U. S. and Mexican side. It is supposedly 3 miles long and was once a smuggling route. It was supposed to have been discovered by a man named Sweeney and explored by A. H. Dunlap, State Board of Water Engineers. Reported in the (Houston?) Post Dispatch, June 10, 1928.

Needle Mountain Cave... Bob Schroeder has been there but can't remember exactly where it is. His reference card gives only a general location and no description of the cave.

Sullivan Mountain Cave... Marked on the P. B. King map. Might be known as Mt. Ord Cave. Cap Yates reportedly owns it.

Bibliography: King, P. B. 1930. The geology of the Glass Mountains, Texas. Univ. Texas, Austin, Texas. Map.

Cave T... Robert C. Schroeder has collected biological specimens from this cave. Nothing more is known except that it is in the Glass Mountains.

Mariscal Mountain Caves...2 caves reported on Mariscal Mountain near Guano Cave.

Telephone Canyon Cave...Wolfgang Lehndardt has looked for a cave rumored to be there.

Lead near McGill Ranch turn-off...Reported to be to the right of the highway. Old owner of Big Bend Abstract Co. may know about this.

Lead...Charlie Stringfellow (Alpine?) has information concerning a cave and a panther.

Indian Cave...Reported to be on the McDonnigal (sp.?) Ranch north of Marathon.

Lead...Mr. Lawrence, Sul Ross Art Dept. reports that the David Adams Ranch south of Black Gap at Stillwell Crossing may have a cave.

Dagger Mountain Cave... Persistent rumors tell of a cave on the south end of Dagger Mountain in BBNP. Supposedly found by some tourists. Check with Ro Wauer (Park Naturalist) or Pat Whalen (working in 1972 as an accountant for the concession at the Basin).

Maravillas Creek Caves...Numerous holes are reported, some of which blow air. Charles Livingston (Alpine) has found holes with a strong downdraft of air.

Bibliography: Madison, Virginia. n.d. The Big Bend Country. pp.242-243.

Leads...Joseph M. Terry reported many leads in Ernst Canyon, Ernst Tinaja, Boquillas Canyon, Santa Elena Canyon, Mariscal Canyon, and near La Noria. The cave near La Noria is said to have "icicles".

Chinati Peak leads...Cracks, caves, and crevices reported on or around this mountain. Bats have been collected by Taylor and Davis, 1947.

Chisos Mountains lead...Borell, 1939, reports a big freetail bat found in a small crevice at 6200'.

Black Gap Caves...Several caves are reported in a canyon east of Black Gap and half a mile from the Maravillas Creek Road. Tamsitt, 1953, reports bats from this group of caves.

Black Gap Sink...A sink is reported near the entrance to Black Gap by a friend of Sammy Cunningham.

Kibbe Spring Cave...One species of bat is reported from this cave.

Cave...Van Tyne and Sutton, 1937 report seeing turkey vultures flying from the entrance to this cave, located about 6 miles southwest of Marathon.

WESTERN PECOS COUNTY



CAVE MESA CAVE

Pecos County #9

Fort Stockton 1/250,000 Quadrangle

Owner: Sibley Ranch (?)

Description: The cave is located about 500' above the valley floor near the top of a mesa. A 15' high, 10' wide entrance leads to a passage extending beyond daylight for over 25'. Evidence of digging is reported.

Bibliography: King, P.B. 1930. The geology of the Glass Mountains, Texas. Univ. Texas Bull. 3038. Map.

Ref: TSS Files

LICHNOVSKY'S CAVE

Pecos County #10

Hess Canyon 15' Quadrangle

Owner: Carl Apple

Description: The entrance is a pit on the side of a hill in the Glass Mountains. It appears to have been formed by the collapse of a solution dome. A 42' drop from the northwest lip of the pit brings one to the top of a small rock pile which is in the center of a room 65' long and up to 30' high trending north and south. The lowest point in the cave is the north end at -54'. No passages lead off and the cave is dry.

History: The cave was found on January 22, 1965 by Frank Lichnovsky, Elbert Bassham, and Robert Schroeder, all members of the TPSS (Sus Ross). The group of Roger Bartholomew, Robert Henry, and Patrick Walker surveyed the cave on July 5, 1970.

Biology: A small collection of invertebrates was made in this cave by Robert C. Schroeder. It included spiders, a flea, a camel cricket, and beetles. The spiders were identified as Physocyclus enaulus Crosby; the camel crickets may represent an undescribed species, Ceuthophilus (Ceuthophilus) sp.; and the beetles are Radine longiceps (Van Dyke). A ringtail cat, Bassaricus astutus (Lichtenstein), was observed in the cave.

Bibliography: Anon. 1965. News: Trans-Pecos Speleological Society. Texas Caver, 10(2):41.

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

---. 1966. A checklist of the cave fauna of Texas. II. Insecta. Texas J. Sci., 18:25-56.

---. 1967. A checklist of the cave fauna of Texas. III. Vertebrata. Texas J. Sci., 19:184-226.

Ref: Roger Bartholomew  
TSS Files

LICHNOVSKY CAVE

Pecos County, Texas

Length - 65 feet  
Depth - 54 "

Survey: 5 JULY 1970  
R. Bartholomew  
R. Henry  
P. Walker

